

S 2854

Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Civil Rights and Liberties, Minority Issues

Introduced: Apr 26, 2016

Current Status: Became Public Law No: 114-325.

Latest Action: Became Public Law No: 114-325. (Dec 16, 2016)

Law: 114-325 (Enacted Dec 16, 2016)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/2854>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Burr, Richard [R-NC]

Party: Republican • **State:** NC • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (16 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blunt, Roy [R-MO]	R · MO		Apr 26, 2016
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]	D · VT		Apr 26, 2016
Sen. McCaskill, Claire [D-MO]	D · MO		Apr 26, 2016
Sen. Cochran, Thad [R-MS]	R · MS		May 17, 2016
Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]	R · TX		May 17, 2016
Sen. Kirk, Mark Steven [R-IL]	R · IL		May 17, 2016
Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]	R · MS		May 17, 2016
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		May 18, 2016
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Jun 6, 2016
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Jun 7, 2016
Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]	D · MN		Jun 7, 2016
Sen. Hatch, Orrin G. [R-UT]	R · UT		Jun 7, 2016
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Jun 9, 2016
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Jun 21, 2016
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Jun 27, 2016
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Jul 14, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Discharged From	Jul 15, 2016
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Jul 27, 2016
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Jul 27, 2016

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Civil Rights and Liberties, Minority Issues

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 5067	Identical bill	May 17, 2016: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.

(This measure has not been amended since it was passed by the House on December 7, 2016. The summary of that version is repeated here.)

Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crimes Reauthorization Act of 2016

(Sec. 2) This bill reauthorizes the Emmett Till Unsolved Civil Rights Crime Act of 2007 (Emmett Till Act) and expands the responsibilities of the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to include the investigation and prosecution of criminal civil rights statutes violations that occurred before 1980 and resulted in a death. (Currently, Emmett Till Act investigations are limited to violations that occurred before 1970.)

The bill expresses the sense of Congress that all authorities with jurisdiction should: (1) meet regularly with civil rights organizations, institutions of higher education, and DOJ-designated entities to coordinate information sharing and discuss the status of DOJ's Emmett Till Act work; (2) support the full accounting of all victims whose deaths or disappearances were the result of racially motivated crimes; (3) hold accountable under federal and state law individuals who were perpetrators of, or accomplices in, unsolved civil rights murders and disappearances; (4) keep families regularly informed about the status of the investigations; and (5) expeditiously comply with Freedom of Information Act requests and develop a singular, publicly accessible repository of these disclosed documents.

In investigating a complaint, DOJ may coordinate activities with entities that DOJ determines to be appropriate.

DOJ may reopen and review cases closed without an in-person investigation conducted by DOJ or the FBI.

DOJ must hold meetings with the Civil Rights Division, the FBI, the Community Relations Service, civil rights organizations, institutions of higher education, DOJ-designated entities, and state and local law enforcement to discuss the status of its Emmett Till Act work.

In an annual report to Congress, DOJ must indicate:

- the number of cases referred by a civil rights organization, an institution of higher education, or a state or local law enforcement agency;
- the number of such cases that resulted in federal charges;
- the date any such charges were filed;
- whether DOJ has declined to prosecute or participate in an investigation of a referred case;
- the outreach, collaboration, and support for investigations and prosecutions of violations of criminal civil rights statutes, including murders and disappearances; and
- any activity on reopened cases.

The Community Relations Service must provide technical assistance by bringing together law enforcement agencies and communities to address tensions raised by civil rights era crimes.

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 16, 2016:** Signed by President.
- **Dec 16, 2016:** Became Public Law No: 114-325.
- **Dec 14, 2016:** Presented to President.
- **Dec 12, 2016:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Dec 10, 2016:** Measure laid before Senate by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR S7135)
- **Dec 10, 2016:** Resolving differences -- Senate actions: Senate agreed to the House amendment to S. 2854 by Voice Vote.
- **Dec 10, 2016:** Senate agreed to the House amendment to S. 2854 by Voice Vote.
- **Dec 8, 2016:** Message on House action received in Senate and at desk: House amendment to Senate bill.
- **Dec 7, 2016:** Mr. Goodlatte moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Dec 7, 2016:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H7343-7346)
- **Dec 7, 2016:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on S. 2854.
- **Dec 7, 2016:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote.(text: CR H7343)
- **Dec 7, 2016:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H7343)
- **Dec 7, 2016:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Jul 27, 2016:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.
- **Jul 27, 2016:** Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice.
- **Jul 18, 2016:** Received in the House.
- **Jul 18, 2016:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.
- **Jul 15, 2016:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Jul 14, 2016:** Senate Committee on the Judiciary discharged by Unanimous Consent.
- **Jul 14, 2016:** Measure laid before Senate by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR S5183-5185)
- **Jul 14, 2016:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment by Voice Vote.
- **Jul 14, 2016:** Passed Senate with an amendment by Voice Vote.
- **Apr 26, 2016:** Introduced in Senate
- **Apr 26, 2016:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.