S 993

Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)
Chamber: Senate
Policy Area: Crime and Law Enforcement
Introduced: Apr 16, 2015
Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.
Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations. (Jan 15, 2016)
Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/993

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]
Party: Democratic • **State:** MN • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (32 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Ayotte, Kelly [R-NH]	R · NH		Apr 16, 2015
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Apr 16, 2015
Sen. Blunt, Roy [R-MO]	R · MO		Apr 16, 2015
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Apr 16, 2015
Sen. Boxer, Barbara [D-CA]	D · CA		Apr 16, 2015
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Apr 16, 2015
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Apr 16, 2015
Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]	R · TX		Apr 16, 2015
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Apr 16, 2015
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Apr 16, 2015
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]	D · VT		Apr 16, 2015
Sen. Portman, Rob [R-OH]	R · OH		Apr 16, 2015
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Apr 16, 2015
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Apr 16, 2015
Sen. Grassley, Chuck [R-IA]	R · IA		Apr 21, 2015
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Apr 23, 2015
Sen. Heller, Dean [R-NV]	R · NV		Apr 27, 2015
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Apr 28, 2015
Sen. Graham, Lindsey [R-SC]	R · SC		Apr 28, 2015
Sen. Hatch, Orrin G. [R-UT]	R · UT		Apr 29, 2015
Sen. Udall, Tom [D-NM]	D · NM		May 4, 2015
Sen. Roberts, Pat [R-KS]	R · KS		May 14, 2015
Sen. Gardner, Cory [R-CO]	R · CO		Jun 8, 2015
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Jun 16, 2015
Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]	R · ME		Jul 23, 2015
Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]	D · NM		Jul 27, 2015
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Jul 27, 2015
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Aug 3, 2015
Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]	D · MI		Aug 5, 2015
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Sep 8, 2015
Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI]	D · RI		Sep 8, 2015
Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI]	D · MI		Nov 19, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Reported By	Apr 30, 2015
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Jan 15, 2016

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 3722	Related bill	**Sep 30, 2016:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Research and Technology.
114 S 2002	Related bill	**Feb 10, 2016:** Committee on the Judiciary. Hearings held.
114 HR 1854	Identical bill	**Jan 12, 2016:** Ordered to be Reported by Voice Vote.
114 HR 731	Related bill	**Mar 16, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.

Summary (as of Dec 10, 2015)

Comprehensive Justice and Mental Health Act of 2015

(Sec. 4) This bill amends the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize the Department of Justice (DOJ) to make grants to an eligible entity for sequential intercept mapping and implementation for:

- mental health and criminal justice stakeholders to develop a shared understanding of the flow of individuals with mental illnesses through the criminal justice system, and identify opportunities for improved responses, including emergency and crisis services, specialized police-based responses, and community and post-prison supervision; and
- hiring and training personnel, identifying target populations, and providing services to reduce recidivism.

(Sec. 5) DOJ is authorized to award grants for:

- veterans treatment court programs involving collaboration among criminal justice, veterans, and mental health and substance abuse agencies;
- peer to peer services or programs for qualified veterans;
- practices that identify and provide treatment, rehabilitation, legal, and transitional services to such veterans who have been incarcerated; and
- training programs to teach criminal justice, law enforcement, corrections, mental health, and substance abuse personnel how to identify and respond to incidents involving such veterans.

DOJ shall give priority to applications that:

- demonstrate collaboration between and joint investments by criminal justice, mental health, substance abuse, and veterans service agencies;
- promote effective strategies to reduce the risk of harm to qualified veterans and public safety; and
- propose interventions with empirical support to improve outcomes for qualified veterans.

(Sec. 6) DOJ is authorized to award grants to enhance correctional facility capabilities to:

- identify and screen for mentally ill inmates;
- provide the clinical, medical, and social needs of inmates and appropriate mental health and substance abuse treatment;
- develop post-release transition plans and alternatives to solitary confinement and segregated housing; and
- train correctional facility employees to respond to incidents involving inmates with mental health and/or substance abuse disorders.

(Sec. 7) Adult and juvenile criminal/mental health collaboration program grants may be used to:

- establish multidisciplinary teams that coordinate and implement community-based crisis responses for frequent users of crisis services;
- train public service personnel in responding to the unique issues involving frequent users of crisis services;
- develop or support alternatives to hospital and jail admissions for frequent users of crisis services; and
- develop protocols and systems among law enforcement, mental health, substance abuse, housing, corrections, and emergency medical service operations to provide coordinated assistance to frequent users of crisis services.

(Sec. 8) Training grants to improve law enforcement response to mentally ill offenders shall now be available to support academy curricula, law enforcement orientation programs, continuing education training, and other programs that teach law enforcement personnel how to respond to incidents involving persons with mental health or substance abuse disorders.

(Sec. 9) DOJ shall provide direction for: (1) programs that offer specialized training to federal first responders and tactical units to identify and respond to incidents involving individuals who have a mental illness; and (2) the establishment or improvement of computerized information systems to improve federal law enforcement response to situations involving individuals who have a mental illness.

(Sec. 10) The Government Accountability Office shall report to Congress regarding:

- practices that federal first responders, tactical units, and corrections officers are trained to use in responding to individuals with mental illness;
- procedures to identify and respond to incidents in which the unique needs of individuals who have a mental illness are involved;
- the application of evidence-based practices in criminal justice settings to better address individuals with mental illnesses; and
- improvement of DOJ information sharing and dissemination of best practices.

(Sec. 11) Collaboration program grant priorities are expanded to include applications that: (1) propose interventions that have been shown by empirical evidence to reduce recidivism; and (2) use validated assessment tools to target preliminarily qualified offenders with a moderate or high risk of recidivism and a need for treatment and services.

(Sec. 12) The definition of "preliminarily qualified offender" is revised for purposes of collaboration program grants to:

- include, in the case of a veterans treatment court program, an adult or juvenile accused of an offense who has been diagnosed with, or manifests signs of, mental illness or a substance abuse disorder;
- remove a requirement that the person be accused of a nonviolent offense;
- require a person to be unanimously approved for participation, and to have been determined to not pose a risk of violence to program participants or the public; and
- disqualify a person who has been charged with or convicted of a sex offense or murder or assault with intent to murder.

(Sec. 13) Adult and juvenile collaboration program-related grants are subjected to specified accountability provisions.

(Sec. 14) Appropriations are authorized through FY2020.
Not more than 28% of such funds may be used for the veterans treatment court program.

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 15, 2016:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.
- **Dec 11, 2015:** Received in the House.
- **Dec 11, 2015:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Dec 11, 2015:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.
- **Dec 10, 2015:** Measure laid before Senate by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR S8614-8617)
- **Dec 10, 2015:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with amendments by Voice Vote.(text: CR S8614-8617)
- **Dec 10, 2015:** Passed Senate with amendments by Voice Vote. (text: CR S8614-8617)
- **Apr 30, 2015:** Committee on the Judiciary. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.
- **Apr 30, 2015:** Committee on the Judiciary. Reported by Senator Grassley without amendment. Without written report.
- **Apr 30, 2015:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 62.
- **Apr 21, 2015:** Committee on the Judiciary. Hearings held.
- **Apr 16, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Apr 16, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S2251-2252)

LegiList

CONGRESS, MADE CLEAR.

Search Every Federal Bill, Law, and Vote

LegiList is the fastest way to research Congress. Track any bill from introduction to enactment, see how every legislator voted, follow committee activity, and read the full text of every bill — all in one place, always up to date.

legilist.com

Free Course: Learn How Congress Actually Works

LegiList Learn is a free, self-paced course that walks through the entire legislative process — from drafting a bill to a presidential signature. Seven modules, plain language, no politics. Earn a certificate when you finish.

legilist.com/learn

Developer API: Build Apps on Legislative Data

The LegiList API gives developers direct access to bills, votes, legislators, committees, and more. Start free with 1,000 requests per day — no credit card required. Upgrade to Pro when you need to scale.

legilist.com/api

Public data belongs to the public. — legilist.com