

S 1134

Back the Blue Act of 2017

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Crime and Law Enforcement

Introduced: May 16, 2017

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (text of measure as introduced: CR S2966-

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (text of measure as introduced: CR S2966-2968) (May 16, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/1134>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]

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

Cosponsors (15 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blunt, Roy [R-MO]	R · MO		May 16, 2017
Sen. Boozman, John [R-AR]	R · AR		May 16, 2017
Sen. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV]	R · WV		May 16, 2017
Sen. Cassidy, Bill [R-LA]	R · LA		May 16, 2017
Sen. Cruz, Ted [R-TX]	R · TX		May 16, 2017
Sen. Daines, Steve [R-MT]	R · MT		May 16, 2017
Sen. Fischer, Deb [R-NE]	R · NE		May 16, 2017
Sen. Heller, Dean [R-NV]	R · NV		May 16, 2017
Sen. Perdue, David [R-GA]	R · GA		May 16, 2017
Sen. Portman, Rob [R-OH]	R · OH		May 16, 2017
Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL]	R · FL		May 16, 2017
Sen. Strange, Luther [R-AL]	R · AL		May 16, 2017
Sen. Sullivan, Dan [R-AK]	R · AK		May 16, 2017
Sen. Tillis, Thomas [R-NC]	R · NC		May 16, 2017
Sen. Barrasso, John [R-WY]	R · WY		May 22, 2017

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 16, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 2437	Identical bill	Jun 7, 2017: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.

Summary (as of May 16, 2017)

Back the Blue Act of 2017

This bill amends the federal criminal code:

- to establish new criminal offenses for killing, assaulting, and fleeing to avoid prosecution for killing a judge, law enforcement officer, or public safety officer;
- to expand the list of statutory aggravating factors in death penalty determinations to also include the killing or attempted killing of a law enforcement officer, judge, prosecutor, or firefighter or other first responder; and
- to broaden the authority of federal law enforcement officers to carry firearms.

The bill amends the federal judicial code to limit federal court review of challenges to state court convictions for killing a public safety officer or judge.

It amends the Revised Statutes of the United States to limit the recovery of compensatory damages and prohibit the recovery of attorney's fees by an individual for a violation of rights that occurs as a result of (or in the course of) conduct that constitutes a felony or crime of violence.

Finally, it directs the Department of Justice to make grants to law enforcement agencies and nongovernmental organizations to promote trust and improve relations between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve.

Actions Timeline

- **May 16, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
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