

S 175

Miners Protection Act of 2017

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Labor and Employment

Introduced: Jan 17, 2017

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S3

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S343) (Jan 17, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/175>

Sponsor

Name: [Sen. Manchin, Joe, III \[D-WV\]](#)

Party: Independent • **State:** WV • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (27 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Jan 17, 2017
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Jan 17, 2017
Sen. Burr, Richard [R-NC]	R · NC		Jan 17, 2017
Sen. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV]	R · WV		Jan 17, 2017
Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		Jan 17, 2017
Sen. Donnelly, Joe [D-IN]	D · IN		Jan 17, 2017
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Jan 17, 2017
Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]	D · MN		Jan 17, 2017
Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]	D · NM		Jan 17, 2017
Sen. Heitkamp, Heidi [D-ND]	D · ND		Jan 17, 2017
Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA]	D · VA		Jan 17, 2017
Sen. McCaskill, Claire [D-MO]	D · MO		Jan 17, 2017
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Jan 17, 2017
Sen. Nelson, Bill [D-FL]	D · FL		Jan 17, 2017
Sen. Portman, Rob [R-OH]	R · OH		Jan 17, 2017
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Jan 17, 2017
Sen. Sullivan, Dan [R-AK]	R · AK		Jan 17, 2017
Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]	D · MT		Jan 17, 2017
Sen. Warner, Mark R. [D-VA]	D · VA		Jan 17, 2017
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Jan 23, 2017
Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]	R · AK		Feb 1, 2017
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Mar 8, 2017
Sen. Risch, James E. [R-ID]	R · ID		Mar 27, 2017
Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]	D · IL		Mar 28, 2017
Sen. Cotton, Tom [R-AR]	R · AR		Apr 3, 2017
Sen. Udall, Tom [D-NM]	D · NM		Apr 5, 2017
Sen. Harris, Kamala D. [D-CA]	D · CA		May 8, 2017

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jan 17, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Labor and Employment

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 4426	Related bill	May 22, 2018: Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy.
115 HR 3913	Related bill	Oct 6, 2017: Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources.
115 S 1911	Related bill	Oct 3, 2017: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.
115 S 1105	Related bill	May 11, 2017: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.
115 HR 179	Related bill	Feb 10, 2017: Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources.

Summary (as of Jan 17, 2017)

Miners Protection Act of 2017

This bill amends the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA) to transfer certain funds to the Multiemployer Health Benefit Plan and the 1974 United Mine Workers of America (UMWA) Pension Plan to provide health and pension benefits to retired coal miners and their families.

The bill expands the group whose retiree health benefits are taken into account in determining the amount that the Department of the Treasury must transfer from the Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fund and the General Fund of the Treasury to the Multiemployer Health Benefit Plan.

Treasury must also transfer additional funds to the 1974 UMWA Pension Plan to pay pension benefits required under that plan if the amounts available for transfer under SMCRA's \$490 million annual limit exceed the amounts required to be transferred for other purposes (including to the UMWA Health Plans).

The bill also: (1) prohibits the pension plan from making certain changes to benefits during any year in which a transfer is received, and (2) establishes additional reporting requirements for the plan.

The bill repeals requirements for current and former signatories to labor agreements with the UMWA to pay unassigned beneficiaries premiums or backstop premiums if transfers under SMCRA are less than the amount required to be transferred.

As an offset, the bill amends the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1985 to extend the authority of Treasury to collect certain customs user fees.

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 17, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 17, 2017:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S343)