

HR 1903

Robert C. Byrd Mine Safety Protection Act of 2017

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Labor and Employment

Introduced: Apr 5, 2017

Current Status: Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Latest Action: Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. (Apr 5, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1903>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Scott, Robert C. "Bobby" [D-VA-3]

Party: Democratic • **State:** VA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (20 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Courtney, Joe [D-CT-2]	D · CT		Apr 5, 2017
Rep. Takano, Mark [D-CA-41]	D · CA		Apr 5, 2017
Rep. Wilson, Frederica S. [D-FL-24]	D · FL		Apr 5, 2017
Rep. Pocan, Mark [D-WI-2]	D · WI		Apr 6, 2017
Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47]	D · CA		Nov 16, 2017
Rep. DeSaulnier, Mark [D-CA-11]	D · CA		Feb 2, 2018
Rep. Shea-Porter, Carol [D-NH-1]	D · NH		Feb 2, 2018
Rep. Krishnamoorthi, Raja [D-IL-8]	D · IL		Feb 5, 2018
Rep. Adams, Alma S. [D-NC-12]	D · NC		Feb 6, 2018
Rep. Grijalva, Raúl M. [D-AZ-3]	D · AZ		Feb 6, 2018
Rep. Clark, Katherine M. [D-MA-5]	D · MA		Feb 13, 2018
Rep. DeLauro, Rosa L. [D-CT-3]	D · CT		Feb 13, 2018
Rep. Ryan, Tim [D-OH-13]	D · OH		Feb 13, 2018
Rep. Brady, Robert A. [D-PA-1]	D · PA		Feb 15, 2018
Rep. Doyle, Michael F. [D-PA-14]	D · PA		Feb 27, 2018
Rep. Garamendi, John [D-CA-3]	D · CA		Feb 27, 2018
Rep. Norcross, Donald [D-NJ-1]	D · NJ		Feb 27, 2018
Rep. Slaughter, Louise McIntosh [D-NY-25]	D · NY		Feb 27, 2018
Rep. Sherman, Brad [D-CA-30]	D · CA		Mar 13, 2018
Rep. Cartwright, Matt [D-PA-17]	D · PA		Mar 22, 2018

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Education and Workforce Committee	House	Referred To	Apr 5, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Labor and Employment

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 S 854	Related bill	Apr 5, 2017: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Summary (as of Apr 5, 2017)

Robert C. Byrd Mine Safety Protection Act of 2017

This bill amends the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 to revise requirements governing: (1) investigations of mine accidents; (2) miners' rights and protections (e.g., whistle-blower rights and protections); (3) mine health and safety standards; (4) underground coal mines; and (5) health and safety training for miners.

The Department of Labor, when investigating coal or other mines, must: (1) determine why an accident occurred and whether there were violations of law, mandatory health and safety standards, or other requirements; (2) refer to the Department of Justice cases involving violations of federal criminal law; and (3) make recommendations to avoid a recurrence of an accident. The bill requires independent investigation of a mine accident under certain circumstances.

The bill expands Labor's enforcement authority, including by requiring Labor to: (1) revoke the approval of mine operators' plans or programs based on certain criteria, and (2) order mine operators to withdraw all persons from a mine until Labor approves a new plan. The bill revises civil and criminal penalties, including by subjecting a mine operator who knowingly violates health or safety standards to a felony punishable by up to five years in prison and a \$1 million fine.

The bill also expands whistle-blower rights and protections, including by: (1) giving miners' rights and protections to all employees of a mine, and (2) prohibiting discrimination against those employees for refusing to perform duties if they have a good-faith and reasonable belief that their duties pose a safety or health hazard.

Underground coal mines operators must: (1) implement a communication program to brief miners of current mine conditions, and (2) install atmospheric monitoring systems.

Actions Timeline

- **Apr 5, 2017:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 5, 2017:** Referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

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