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Smarter Sentencing Act of 2017

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Crime and Law Enforcement

Introduced: Oct 5, 2017

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Oct 5, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/1933>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Lee, Mike [R-UT]

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

Cosponsors (26 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Oct 5, 2017
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Oct 5, 2017
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Oct 5, 2017
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Oct 5, 2017
Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]	D · IL		Oct 5, 2017
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Oct 5, 2017
Sen. Flake, Jeff [R-AZ]	R · AZ		Oct 5, 2017
Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]	D · MN		Oct 5, 2017
Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]	D · NM		Oct 5, 2017
Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA]	D · VA		Oct 5, 2017
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		Oct 5, 2017
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]	D · VT		Oct 5, 2017
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Oct 5, 2017
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Oct 5, 2017
Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]	D · MI		Oct 5, 2017
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Oct 5, 2017
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		Oct 5, 2017
Sen. Udall, Tom [D-NM]	D · NM		Oct 5, 2017
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Oct 5, 2017
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Oct 5, 2017
Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT]	D · CT		Dec 19, 2017
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Dec 19, 2017
Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]	D · MN		Mar 8, 2018
Sen. Jones, Doug [D-AL]	D · AL		Jun 11, 2018
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Jul 11, 2018
Sen. Harris, Kamala D. [D-CA]	D · CA		Nov 27, 2018

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Oct 5, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Smarter Sentencing Act of 2017

This bill amends the federal criminal code to expand the safety valve to allow a court to impose a sentence below the statutory mandatory minimum for an otherwise eligible drug offender who has three or fewer (currently, one or fewer) criminal history points.

The bill amends the Controlled Substances Act to reduce the mandatory minimum prison term for defendants who manufacture, distribute, or possess with intent to distribute a controlled substance. Specifically, it reduces mandatory minimums:

- from 10 years to 5 years for a first-time high-level offense (e.g., one kilogram or more of heroin),
- from 20 years to 10 years for a high-level offense after one prior felony drug offense,
- from life to 25 years for a high-level offense after two or more prior felony drug offenses,
- from 5 years to 2 years for a first-time low-level offense (e.g., 100 to 999 grams of heroin), and
- from 10 years to 5 years for a low-level offense after one prior felony drug offense.

Additionally, the bill amends the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act to modify the application of mandatory minimum prison terms for certain defendants who import or export a controlled substance. Specifically, it:

- makes existing mandatory minimums inapplicable to a defendant who functions as a courier; and
- establishes new, shorter mandatory minimum prison terms for a courier.

The Fair Sentencing Act of 2010 applies retroactively to allow a court to reduce the prison term of a convicted crack cocaine offender sentenced before August 3, 2010.

The Department of Justice must report on and publish all federal criminal statutory offenses. Specified federal agencies, departments, and entities must report on and publish criminal regulatory offenses that they enforce.

Actions Timeline

- **Oct 5, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
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