

## S 728

RECLAIM Act of 2017

**Congress:** 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Energy

**Introduced:** Mar 27, 2017

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. (text of measure as introd

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. (text of measure as introduced: CR S1997-1999) (Mar 27, 2017)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/728>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. McConnell, Mitch [R-KY]

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

### Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV]	R · WV		Mar 27, 2017

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Natural Resources Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 27, 2017

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Energy

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 4426	Related bill	<b>May 22, 2018:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy.
115 HR 1731	Identical bill	<b>Oct 19, 2017:</b> Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 255.
115 S 738	Related bill	<b>Mar 27, 2017:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

## **Revitalizing the Economy of Coal Communities by Leveraging Local Activities and Investing More Act of 2017 or the RECLAIM Act of 2017**

This bill amends the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA) to make specified funds available to the Department of the Interior through FY2021 for distribution to states and Indian tribes to promote economic revitalization, diversification, and development in economically distressed communities through the reclamation and restoration of land and water resources adversely affected by coal mining carried out before August 3, 1977.

The bill prescribes general requirements for projects to reclaim abandoned mine lands and waters that are likely to create favorable conditions for the economic development of the project site or promote the general welfare through economic and community development of the area in which the project is conducted. Any such project shall be located in a community affected by a recent decline in mining.

A state or Indian tribe that receives funds under this bill may retain a portion of them as necessary to supplement its acid mine drainage abatement and treatment fund for future operation and maintenance costs for the treatment of acid mine drainage associated with individual projects.

The bill increases the minimum amount of funds that Interior must provide annually to states and Indian tribes for reclamation and restoration projects.

The Government Accountability Office must conduct a study on the use of funds authorized by this bill.

The Appalachian Regional Commission may provide grants to individuals or entities in the Appalachian region for projects that have been or that are eligible to be reclaimed or restored under SMCRA. The commission must relocate its headquarters from Washington, DC to the Appalachian region.

### **Actions Timeline**

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- **Mar 27, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 27, 2017:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. (text of measure as introduced: CR S1997-1999)

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