

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 | May 22, 2018: Referred to the Subcommittee on Energy. |
| 115 HR 1731 | Identical bill | Oct 19, 2017: Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 255. |
| 115 S 738 | Related bill | Mar 27, 2017: 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

- **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)