

S 1480

Back the Blue Act of 2019

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Crime and Law Enforcement

Introduced: May 15, 2019

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S2888-2889) (May 15, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/1480>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]

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

Cosponsors (17 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Barrasso, John [R-WY]	R · WY		May 15, 2019
Sen. Blackburn, Marsha [R-TN]	R · TN		May 15, 2019
Sen. Blunt, Roy [R-MO]	R · MO		May 15, 2019
Sen. Boozman, John [R-AR]	R · AR		May 15, 2019
Sen. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV]	R · WV		May 15, 2019
Sen. Cassidy, Bill [R-LA]	R · LA		May 15, 2019
Sen. Cruz, Ted [R-TX]	R · TX		May 15, 2019
Sen. Daines, Steve [R-MT]	R · MT		May 15, 2019
Sen. Fischer, Deb [R-NE]	R · NE		May 15, 2019
Sen. Hyde-Smith, Cindy [R-MS]	R · MS		May 15, 2019
Sen. Perdue, David [R-GA]	R · GA		May 15, 2019
Sen. Portman, Rob [R-OH]	R · OH		May 15, 2019
Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL]	R · FL		May 15, 2019
Sen. Tillis, Thomas [R-NC]	R · NC		May 15, 2019
Sen. Isakson, Johnny [R-GA]	R · GA		May 16, 2019
Sen. Roberts, Pat [R-KS]	R · KS		Jun 3, 2019
Sen. Lankford, James [R-OK]	R · OK		Sep 29, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 15, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 5395	Identical bill	Jan 30, 2020: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.

Summary (as of May 15, 2019)

Back the Blue Act of 2019

This bill establishes new criminal offenses for killing, assaulting, and fleeing to avoid prosecution for killing a judge, law enforcement officer, or public safety officer.

Additionally, the bill

- expands the list of statutory aggravating factors in death penalty determinations to also include the killing or attempted killing of a law enforcement officer, judge, prosecutor, or firefighter or other first responder;
- broadens the authority of federal law enforcement officers to carry firearms;
- limits federal court review of challenges to state court convictions for killing a public safety officer or judge; and
- limits the recovery of compensatory damages and prohibits the recovery of attorney's fees by an individual for a violation of rights that occurred as a result of (or in the course of) conduct that constitutes a felony or crime of violence.

Finally, it directs the Department of Justice to make grants to law enforcement agencies and nongovernmental organizations to promote trust and improve relations between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve.

Actions Timeline

- **May 15, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 15, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S2888-2889)