

S 2979

Preventing Opioid and Drug Impairment in Transportation Act

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Transportation and Public Works

Introduced: Dec 4, 2019

Current Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 634.

Latest Action: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 634. (Dec 15, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/2979>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]

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

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Reported By	Dec 15, 2020

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Transportation and Public Works

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 3888	Related bill	Jul 24, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce.

Preventing Opioid and Drug Impairment in Transportation Act

This bill addresses drug and alcohol testing for transportation-related activities.

Specifically, the bill requires

- the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) to report on methods it uses to ensure supervisors of employees in safety-sensitive positions receive the required training on how to detect drug and alcohol use and training on the rights and responsibilities of employees throughout the drug and alcohol testing process;
- the Department of Transportation (DOT) to determine whether to mandate that Amtrak locomotive engineers and conductors report arrests due to drug or alcohol offenses;
- DOT to report on the ability of pipeline companies that operate from Canada or Mexico into the United States to conduct the same drug and alcohol tests of safety-sensitive personnel that are required in the United States;
- DOT to amend its auditing program to improve the efficiency of certain drug and alcohol regulations related to testing contractors working in multiple states;
- the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to study the ways it can reduce and better detect impaired driving, including marijuana- and opioid-impaired driving;
- DOT to conduct a study on the accuracy of on-site oral fluid screening for tetrahydrocannabinol and opiate presence in order to reduce the potential impact on traffic safety due to drug and polysubstance-impaired drivers;
- the Government Accountability Office to review DOT's process for setting guidelines and drug testing requirements for transportation employees;
- reports on whether to add fentanyl to the drug testing panel and the status of the guidelines for hair testing of transportation employees;
- DOT to report on the current status and operational potential of the Driver Alcohol Detection System for Safety Program's alcohol detection technology; and
- DOT to identify the barriers states face in submitting toxicology results of fatally injured drivers, provide recommendations to address such barriers, and establish minimum guidelines for toxicological investigations.

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 15, 2020:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Reported by Senator Wicker with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. With written report No. 116-328.
- **Dec 15, 2020:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 634.
- **Dec 11, 2019:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Dec 4, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- **Dec 4, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.