

S 4317

SAFE TO WORK Act

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Law

Introduced: Jul 27, 2020

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Jul 27, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/4317>

Sponsor

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

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

Cosponsors (23 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. McConnell, Mitch [R-KY]	R · KY		Jul 27, 2020
Sen. Hyde-Smith, Cindy [R-MS]	R · MS		Jul 30, 2020
Sen. Young, Todd [R-IN]	R · IN		Jul 30, 2020
Sen. Alexander, Lamar [R-TN]	R · TN		Aug 3, 2020
Sen. Blackburn, Marsha [R-TN]	R · TN		Aug 3, 2020
Sen. Tillis, Thomas [R-NC]	R · NC		Aug 3, 2020
Sen. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV]	R · WV		Aug 5, 2020
Sen. Cotton, Tom [R-AR]	R · AR		Aug 5, 2020
Sen. Cramer, Kevin [R-ND]	R · ND		Aug 5, 2020
Sen. Crapo, Mike [R-ID]	R · ID		Aug 5, 2020
Sen. Inhofe, James M. [R-OK]	R · OK		Aug 5, 2020
Sen. Risch, James E. [R-ID]	R · ID		Aug 5, 2020
Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]	R · MS		Aug 5, 2020
Sen. Blunt, Roy [R-MO]	R · MO		Aug 6, 2020
Sen. Lankford, James [R-OK]	R · OK		Aug 6, 2020
Sen. Loeffler, Kelly [R-GA]	R · GA		Aug 6, 2020
Sen. Perdue, David [R-GA]	R · GA		Aug 6, 2020
Sen. Toomey, Patrick [R-PA]	R · PA		Aug 6, 2020
Sen. Fischer, Deb [R-NE]	R · NE		Aug 11, 2020
Sen. Barrasso, John [R-WY]	R · WY		Sep 8, 2020
Sen. Daines, Steve [R-MT]	R · MT		Sep 8, 2020
Sen. Portman, Rob [R-OH]	R · OH		Sep 8, 2020
Sen. Scott, Tim [R-SC]	R · SC		Sep 8, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jul 27, 2020

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Law

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 8832	Identical bill	Dec 2, 2020: Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
116 S 4775	Related bill	Oct 1, 2020: Read the second time. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 564.
116 S 4537	Related bill	Sep 8, 2020: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

Summary (as of Jul 27, 2020)

Safeguarding America's Frontline Employees To Offer Work Opportunities Required to Kickstart the Economy Act or the SAFE TO WORK Act

This bill limits liability for injuries related to COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019).

Generally, an individual alleging harm from exposure to coronavirus or related medical treatment occurring before October 1, 2024, may sue only under the causes of action created by this bill, with limited exceptions. However, the bill does not preempt any law that imposes stricter limits on liability or otherwise provides greater protections to defendants.

An individual or entity engaged in business or other activities may be liable for injuries resulting from coronavirus exposure only if the plaintiff proves by clear and convincing evidence that (1) the defendant did not make reasonable efforts to comply with government standards and guidance, (2) the defendant's actions constitute gross negligence or willful misconduct, and (3) actual exposure caused the plaintiff's injury. (The clear and convincing evidence standard is a higher standard of proof than is typically required in a civil action.)

Similarly, a health care provider may be liable for injuries connected to coronavirus-related services only if the plaintiff proves by clear and convincing evidence that (1) the provider's actions constituted gross negligence or willful misconduct, and (2) such actions directly caused the injury.

The bill also contains various coronavirus-related protections for defendants, including protections that (1) exempt an employer or operator of public accommodations that meets certain requirements from liability under certain federal laws, (2) impose limitations on coronavirus-related class action lawsuits, and (3) limit liability for certain injuries related to workplace coronavirus testing.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 27, 2020:** Introduced in Senate
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