

S 697

Next Step Act of 2019

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Crime and Law Enforcement

Introduced: Mar 7, 2019

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Mar 7, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/697>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]

Party: Democratic • **State:** NJ • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Feb 10, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 7, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 8941	Related bill	Dec 10, 2020: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.
116 HR 7270	Related bill	Jun 18, 2020: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.
116 HR 7089	Related bill	Jun 4, 2020: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.
116 HR 1076	Related bill	Jan 24, 2020: Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 301.
116 S 2850	Related bill	Nov 13, 2019: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.
116 HR 4339	Related bill	Sep 25, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.
116 S 2355	Related bill	Jul 31, 2019: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.
116 HR 2865	Related bill	Jun 26, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.
116 S 1557	Related bill	May 21, 2019: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.
116 HR 2410	Related bill	May 20, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.
116 HR 2232	Related bill	May 15, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.
116 HR 1951	Related bill	May 3, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.
116 S 387	Related bill	Apr 10, 2019: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 69.
116 S 1068	Related bill	Apr 9, 2019: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.
116 S 1080	Related bill	Apr 9, 2019: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.
116 HR 1456	Related bill	Apr 8, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.
116 HR 1893	Identical bill	Apr 8, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.
116 S 597	Related bill	Feb 28, 2019: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.
116 HR 196	Related bill	Jan 3, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.

Next Step Act of 2019

This bill revises sentencing guidelines, addresses prison conditions and prisoner reentry, and addresses law enforcement training.

First, it eliminates increased and mandatory minimum penalties for drug offenses involving mixtures or substances which contain cocaine base (i.e., crack cocaine).

It decriminalizes marijuana by (1) removing marijuana from the list of scheduled substances; (2) eliminating criminal penalties for an individual who imports, exports, manufactures, distributes, or possesses with intent to distribute marijuana; and (3) expunging convictions for marijuana use or possession.

It reduces the mandatory minimum prison term for defendants who manufacture, distribute, or possess with intent to distribute a controlled substance.

Additionally, the bill

- requires the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) to provide videoconferencing free of charge to prisoners;
- prohibits federal agencies from requesting that applicants disclose their criminal history before receiving a conditional offer of employment;
- restricts the use of criminal records to disqualify individuals from employment, occupational licensing, or occupational certification;
- creates a mechanism by which certain eligible individuals may file a petition to seal federal criminal records for certain nonviolent offenses;
- reinstates the right to vote in federal elections for persons convicted of criminal offenses;
- revises requirements for the BOP to help prisoners obtain identification documents prior to their release;
- establishes and revises certain grants;
- requires a state or tribe that receives certain funding to report on use-of-force incidents involving a law enforcement officer and a civilian; and
- prohibits racial profiling by law enforcement.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 7, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 7, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.