

S 719

Solitary Confinement Reform Act

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/719>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]

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

Cosponsors (7 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Mar 7, 2019
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Mar 7, 2019
Sen. Harris, Kamala D. [D-CA]	D · CA		Mar 7, 2019
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]	D · VT		Mar 7, 2019
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		Mar 7, 2019
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Mar 7, 2019
Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT]	D · CT		Mar 4, 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

No related bills are listed.

Solitary Confinement Reform Act

This bill establishes standards for the use of solitary confinement at federal prisons.

It generally limits the use of solitary confinement to situations that meet certain criteria, including confinement for the briefest term and the least restrictive conditions practicable. It also limits the use of solitary confinement for certain categories of inmates, including pregnant women and individuals with serious mental illness.

The bill requires the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) to do the following:

- establish a transitional process for inmates in solitary confinement,
- provide comprehensive mental health evaluations for inmates in solitary confinement,
- train employees on mental illness and the psychological effects of solitary confinement, and
- report annually on the use of solitary confinement.

It establishes, within the BOP, an Office of the Civil Rights Ombudsman.

Finally, it establishes a solitary confinement resource center within the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 7, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
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