

S 788

Equality Act

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Civil Rights and Liberties, Minority Issues

Introduced: Mar 13, 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 13, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/788>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]

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

Cosponsors (46 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI] | D · WI | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO] | D · CO | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT] | D · CT | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ] | D · NJ | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH] | D · OH | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA] | D · WA | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD] | D · MD | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. Carper, Thomas R. [D-DE] | D · DE | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA] | D · PA | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME] | R · ME | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE] | D · DE | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. Cortez Masto, Catherine [D-NV] | D · NV | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL] | D · IL | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL] | D · IL | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA] | D · CA | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY] | D · NY | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. Harris, Kamala D. [D-CA] | D · CA | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH] | D · NH | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM] | D · NM | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI] | D · HI | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. Jones, Doug [D-AL] | D · AL | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA] | D · VA | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME] | I · ME | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN] | D · MN | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT] | D · VT | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA] | D · MA | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ] | D · NJ | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT] | D · CT | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA] | D · WA | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI] | D · MI | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI] | D · RI | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. Rosen, Jacky [D-NV] | D · NV | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT] | I · VT | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI] | D · HI | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY] | D · NY | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH] | D · NH | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. Sinema, Kyrsten [D-AZ] | D · AZ | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN] | D · MN | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI] | D · MI | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT] | D · MT | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. Udall, Tom [D-NM] | D · NM | | Mar 13, 2019 |

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|---------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD] | D · MD | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. Warner, Mark R. [D-VA] | D · VA | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA] | D · MA | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI] | D · RI | | Mar 13, 2019 |
| Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR] | D · OR | | Mar 13, 2019 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|---------------------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Judiciary Committee | Senate | Referred To | Mar 13, 2019 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Civil Rights and Liberties, Minority Issues

Related Bills

| Bill | Relationship | Last Action |
|-------------|--------------|--|
| 116 HR 2687 | Related bill | Jun 26, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties. |
| 116 HR 5 | Related bill | May 20, 2019: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. |
| 116 HR 2402 | Related bill | May 20, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties. |

Summary (as of Mar 13, 2019)

Equality Act

This bill prohibits discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in areas including public accommodations and facilities, education, federal funding, employment, housing, credit, and the jury system. Specifically, the bill defines and includes sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity among the prohibited categories of discrimination or segregation.

The bill expands the definition of public accommodations to include places or establishments that provide (1) exhibitions, recreation, exercise, amusement, gatherings, or displays; (2) goods, services, or programs; and (3) transportation services.

The bill allows the Department of Justice to intervene in equal protection actions in federal court on account of sexual orientation or gender identity.

The bill prohibits an individual from being denied access to a shared facility, including a restroom, a locker room, and a dressing room, that is in accordance with the individual's gender identity.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 13, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 13, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.