

HR 8470

Federal Correctional Facilities COVID–19 Response Act

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Crime and Law Enforcement

Introduced: Oct 1, 2020

Current Status: Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce,

Latest Action: Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on 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. (Oct 1, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/8470>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Barragan, Nanette Diaz [D-CA-44]

Party: Democratic • **State:** CA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (6 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		Oct 23, 2020
Rep. Cárdenas, Tony [D-CA-29]	D · CA		Oct 23, 2020
Rep. Carson, Andre [D-IN-7]	D · IN		Oct 23, 2020
Rep. Davis, Danny K. [D-IL-7]	D · IL		Oct 23, 2020
Rep. Hayes, Jahana [D-CT-5]	D · CT		Oct 23, 2020
Rep. Grijalva, Raúl M. [D-AZ-3]	D · AZ		Oct 27, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred To	Oct 1, 2020
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred To	Oct 1, 2020

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 S 4811	Identical bill	Oct 19, 2020: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Federal Correctional Facilities COVID-19 Response Act

This bill requires federal correctional facilities to provide COVID-19 tests at no cost to inmates and employees and otherwise addresses the management of COVID-19 in these facilities.

Correctional facilities operated by the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) and private facilities that house inmates under contract with federal entities must provide initial tests within 15 days of the enactment of this bill and also establish a weekly testing program that will remain in effect through the end of the COVID-19 pandemic. Inmates may opt out of this testing. In addition, facilities must provide appropriate follow-up services for those who test positive for, or display symptoms of, COVID-19, including necessary medical care for inmates and access to paid leave for employees.

Furthermore, each facility must report specified COVID-19 data to the Department of Justice (DOJ), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the public health authority of the state in which the facility is located. Specifically, facilities must report COVID-19 outbreaks to the CDC, and the CDC must deploy staff to facilities with outbreaks to prevent further spread of the disease.

The bill also applies certain federal privacy standards for health records to, and restricts the use of, any data collected as a result of the testing and reporting activities.

Additionally, the BOP, in consultation with the CDC and other experts, must update certain guidelines on managing COVID-19, and DOJ must also report to Congress on COVID-19 prevention, mitigation, and control activities at federal correctional facilities.

Actions Timeline

- **Oct 1, 2020:** Introduced in House
- **Oct 1, 2020:** Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on 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.