

S 1571

Servicemember Parental Leave Equity Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Armed Forces and National Security

Introduced: May 11, 2021

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services. (May 11, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/1571>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]

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

Cosponsors (7 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		May 11, 2021
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		May 11, 2021
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		May 11, 2021
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		May 11, 2021
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		May 11, 2021
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		May 11, 2021
Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		May 18, 2021

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Armed Services Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 11, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Armed Forces and National Security

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 3122	Identical bill	May 11, 2021: Referred to the House Committee on Armed Services.

Servicemember Parental Leave Equity Act

This bill modifies Department of Defense parental leave provisions for members of the Armed Forces.

Specifically, the bill increases parental leave for primary caregivers to 18 weeks (currently 12) following the birth of a child and to 12 weeks (currently 6) following the adoption of a child. The bill increases parental leave for a secondary caregiver from 21 days to 12 weeks in connection with the birth or adoption of a child.

Primary or secondary caregivers of a long-term foster child are authorized to take up to 12 weeks of leave in connection with such placement.

Parental leave for a primary or secondary caregiver for a birth, adoption, or foster child placement may be taken in more than one increment. For primary caregivers, the leave must be utilized within one year of the event.

The bill authorizes up to 12 weeks of leave to certain service members who would have been secondary caregivers but for a miscarriage, stillbirth, or infant death.

The following activities required of an active-duty member within a 12-month postpartum period must have the approval of a health care provider and be at the election of the member or in the interest of national security: (1) an order of temporary duty overnight travel or to participate in physically demanding field training exercises, (2) meeting of body composition standards, or (3) passing a physical fitness test.

The bill also reduces the service commitment required for participation in the Career Intermission Program.

Actions Timeline

- **May 11, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 11, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services.