

## S 1912

Access to Counsel Act of 2021

**Congress:** 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Immigration

**Introduced:** May 27, 2021

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure:

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S3899-3900) (May 27, 2021)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/1912>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Padilla, Alex [D-CA]

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

### Cosponsors (16 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		May 27, 2021
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		May 27, 2021
Sen. Cortez Masto, Catherine [D-NV]	D · NV		May 27, 2021
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		May 27, 2021
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		May 27, 2021
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		May 27, 2021
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		May 27, 2021
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Jun 7, 2021
Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]	D · IL		Jun 7, 2021
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Jun 7, 2021
Sen. Rosen, Jacky [D-NV]	D · NV		Jun 7, 2021
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Jun 7, 2021
Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]	D · MD		Jul 28, 2021
Sen. Ossoff, Jon [D-GA]	D · GA		Mar 10, 2022
Sen. Hickenlooper, John W. [D-CO]	D · CO		Mar 28, 2022
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Mar 28, 2022

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 27, 2021

### Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Immigration

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 1573	Identical bill	<b>Apr 22, 2021:</b> Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## Summary (as of May 27, 2021)

### Access to Counsel Act of 2021

This bill provides various protections for covered individuals subject to secondary or deferred inspections when seeking admission into the United States. Covered individuals include U.S. nationals, lawful permanent residents, aliens in possession of a visa, returning asylees, and refugees.

The Department of Homeland Security shall ensure that a covered individual subject to secondary or deferred inspection has a meaningful opportunity to consult with counsel and certain related parties, such as a relative, within an hour of the start of the secondary inspection and as necessary during the inspection process. The counsel and related party shall be allowed to advocate on behalf of the covered individual, including by providing evidence and information to the examining immigration officer.

A lawful permanent resident subject to secondary or deferred inspection may not abandon lawful permanent resident status until the individual has had a meaningful opportunity to seek advice from counsel, unless the individual voluntarily and knowingly waives in writing this opportunity to seek counsel's advice.

### Actions Timeline

- **May 27, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 27, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S3899-3900)