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Enhancing Oversight to End Discrimination in Policing Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Crime and Law Enforcement

Introduced: Jun 9, 2021

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Jun 9, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/1989>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]

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

Cosponsors (10 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Jun 9, 2021
Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]	D · IL		Jun 9, 2021
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Jun 9, 2021
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Jun 9, 2021
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Jun 9, 2021
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Jun 9, 2021
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Jun 9, 2021
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Jun 9, 2021
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Jun 9, 2021
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Jun 9, 2021

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jun 9, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 3732	Identical bill	Nov 1, 2022: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.

Enhancing Oversight to End Discrimination in Policing Act

This bill expands the capacity to enforce a law that prohibits patterns or practices of misconduct by state and local law enforcement agencies.

Current law prohibits state and local law enforcement agencies from engaging in patterns or practices of conduct that violate constitutional or federal rights. Further, current law authorizes the Department of Justice (DOJ) to file civil cases to eliminate the pattern or practice of misconduct. Typically, DOJ's Civil Rights Division conducts pattern-or-practice investigations and resolves any misconduct through a consent decree instead of a trial.

This bill provides statutory authority for state attorneys general to bring pattern-or-practice cases in federal court. The bill also authorizes grants to help states pursue pattern-or-practice investigations and cases.

Additionally, the bill authorizes additional amounts for DOJ's Civil Rights Division and requires a certain portion to be used for enforcement and technical assistance related to pattern-or-practice cases.

Finally, the bill requires DOJ's Civil Rights Division to modify the procedures for consent decrees and settlement agreements to ensure that the consent decrees and settlement agreements (1) foster the creation and use of alternative remedies such as mental health support or community-based restorative justice mechanisms; and (2) incorporate community oversight requirements, such as a community oversight body.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 9, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
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