

HR 2434

Environmental Justice Act of 2021

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Environmental Protection

Introduced: Apr 8, 2021

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties. (Oct 19, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/2434>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Ruiz, Raul [D-CA-36]

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

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Soto, Darren [D-FL-9]	D · FL		May 20, 2021

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Apr 13, 2021
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Oct 19, 2021
Natural Resources Committee	House	Referred To	Apr 8, 2021
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred to	Apr 9, 2021
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred to	Apr 9, 2021
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred to	Apr 9, 2021
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred to	Apr 9, 2021
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred to	Apr 9, 2021
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred to	Apr 9, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Environmental Protection

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 S 2630	Related bill	Aug 5, 2021: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Environmental Justice Act of 2021

This bill requires agencies to address and mitigate the disproportionate impact of environmental and human health hazards on communities of color, indigenous communities, and low-income communities resulting from agencies' programs and policies. The bill also requires agencies to address cumulative impacts of pollution in permitting decisions and expands the types of legal actions available to individuals regarding charges of federal discriminatory practices.

Specifically, the bill provides statutory authority for a variety of existing programs, executive orders, federal guidance, and committees concerning environmental justice, including

- Executive Order 12898;
- a guidance issued in 1997 by the Council on Environmental Quality titled *Environmental Justice Guidance Under the National Environmental Policy Act*;
- a guidance issued in 2016 by the Environmental Protection Agency titled *EPA Policy on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribes: Guidance for Discussing Tribal Treaty Rights*;
- the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council;
- the Environmental Justice Small Grants Program; and
- the Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement Program.

In addition, the bill requires agencies renewing or issuing specified permits under the Clean Water Act or the Clean Air Act to consider the cumulative impacts of pollution.

The bill also allows individuals to bring actions under the Civil Rights Act against entities that receive federal assistance and engage in discriminatory practices that have a disparate impact. Currently, individuals must request that federal agencies bring such actions on their behalf.

Actions Timeline

- **Oct 19, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.
- **Apr 13, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change.
- **Apr 9, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Aviation.
- **Apr 9, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation.
- **Apr 9, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management.
- **Apr 9, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit.
- **Apr 9, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials.
- **Apr 9, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.
- **Apr 8, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 8, 2021:** Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Judiciary, 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.