

## S 2630

### Environmental Justice Act of 2021

**Congress:** 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Environmental Protection

**Introduced:** Aug 5, 2021

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. (Aug 5, 2021)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/2630>

## Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]

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

## Cosponsors (13 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Aug 5, 2021
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Aug 5, 2021
Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]	D · IL		Aug 5, 2021
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Aug 5, 2021
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Aug 5, 2021
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Aug 5, 2021
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Aug 5, 2021
Sen. Padilla, Alex [D-CA]	D · CA		Aug 5, 2021
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Aug 5, 2021
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		Aug 5, 2021
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Aug 5, 2021
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Aug 5, 2021
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Aug 5, 2021

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Environment and Public Works Committee	Senate	Referred To	Aug 5, 2021

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Environmental Protection

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 2434	Related bill	Oct 19, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.

## **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**

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- **Aug 5, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Aug 5, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.