

S 3285

Protecting America's Meatpacking Workers Act of 2021

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Labor and Employment

Introduced: Nov 30, 2021

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. (Nov 30, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/3285>

Sponsor

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

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

Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Nov 30, 2021
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Nov 30, 2021
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Nov 30, 2021
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Nov 30, 2021
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		May 10, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Nov 30, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Labor and Employment

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 6250	Related bill	Jan 4, 2022: Referred to the Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture.
117 S 713	Related bill	Mar 11, 2021: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Protecting America's Meatpacking Workers Act of 2021

This bill addresses workplace conditions and safety with a particular focus on meat and poultry processing establishments and makes other changes to agricultural programs and activities.

Generally, the bill provides funding through FY2027 for hiring additional Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) inspectors and related activities. It also restricts an employer's use of certain attendance policies under which a worker is assessed points for absences with progressive discipline imposed as points accumulate.

Additionally, the bill expands protections for workers who exercise their rights under occupational safety and health laws and regulations. This includes specific protections and procedures for workers of meat and poultry processing establishments.

The bill expands workplace safety and health requirements that apply to meat and poultry processing establishments, including by prohibiting waivers (subject to limited exceptions) related to line speeds and inspections. Additionally, OSHA must issue standards for these establishments that address, for example, ergonomic program management and preventing occupational exposure to COVID-19. OSHA must also (1) establish, within seven days, a process for establishments to report COVID-19 information; and (2) publish certain regulations regarding a workers' representative accompanying an OSHA inspector during inspections of an establishment.

The bill provides funding through FY2031 for, and imposes additional conditions on recipients of, grants to improve meat and poultry processing facilities. Further, the bill increases funding for a program that supports regional and local food systems. It also requires country-of-origin labeling of beef, pork, and dairy products.

Actions Timeline

- **Nov 30, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Nov 30, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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