

S 3343

Bivens Act of 2021

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Civil Rights and Liberties, Minority Issues

Introduced: Dec 8, 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. (Dec 8, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/3343>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]

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

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Dec 8, 2021
Sen. Padilla, Alex [D-CA]	D · CA		Dec 8, 2021
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Dec 8, 2021

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Dec 8, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Civil Rights and Liberties, Minority Issues

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 6185	Identical bill	Nov 1, 2022: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.
117 HR 8794	Related bill	Nov 1, 2022: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.

Bivens Act of 2021

This bill provides individuals with a statutory right to sue and recover damages from federal officials for violations of their constitutional rights.

Currently, individuals have a statutory right to bring such suits against state or local officials (e.g., law enforcement), commonly known as Section 1983 suits or Bivens actions. Although the statute does not explicitly authorize such suits against federal officials, the Supreme Court has found this right to be inferred from the Constitution in certain situations (e.g., Fourth Amendment violations committed by federal law enforcement officers).

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 8, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Dec 8, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.