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PROKID Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Immigration

Introduced: Feb 23, 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. (Feb 23, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/382>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]

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

Cosponsors (9 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Feb 23, 2021
Sen. Cortez Masto, Catherine [D-NV]	D · NV		Feb 23, 2021
Sen. Rosen, Jacky [D-NV]	D · NV		Feb 23, 2021
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Feb 23, 2021
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Feb 23, 2021
Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA]	D · VA		Mar 15, 2021
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Apr 13, 2021
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Jul 14, 2021
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Apr 5, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Feb 23, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 1238	Identical bill	Apr 28, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.

Protection of Kids in Immigrant Detention Act or PROKID Act

This bill establishes the Office of the Ombudsperson for Immigrant Children in Government Custody within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

The office shall ensure that if government detention of an immigrant child is necessary, that child is held in the least restrictive setting. The office shall also advocate for (1) the quick and safe release of such a detained child, and (2) a child who was detained with family to be released concurrently with a parent or legal guardian.

The office's duties shall include (1) monitoring facilities with immigrant children held in government custody to ensure compliance with applicable laws and standards, (2) investigating claims of mistreatment and complaints against foster care providers, (3) reviewing contested decisions about the placement of an immigrant child, and (4) reviewing data from HHS and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) relating to such children.

The office may also offer individual case assistance to such a detained child who requires expedited processing or elevated attention. The office may also issue subpoenas with HHS approval.

DHS and HHS must ensure that the office has the ability to conduct investigative and monitoring activities, including by providing unobstructed access to any detention facility with immigrant children.

The office and DHS shall enter into a memorandum of understanding to coordinate oversight between DHS and HHS.

The bill also establishes an expert advisory committee to assist the office and an interagency working group to identify and discuss concerns related to detained immigrant children.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 23, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
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