

HR 4020

Drug Policy Reform Act of 2021

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Crime and Law Enforcement

Introduced: Jun 17, 2021

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security. (Nov 1, 2022)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/4020>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Watson Coleman, Bonnie [D-NJ-12]

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

Cosponsors (18 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Bowman, Jamaal [D-NY-16]	D · NY		Jun 17, 2021
Rep. Bush, Cori [D-MO-1]	D · MO		Jun 17, 2021
Rep. Espaillat, Adriano [D-NY-13]	D · NY		Jun 17, 2021
Rep. Lee, Barbara [D-CA-13]	D · CA		Jun 17, 2021
Rep. Moore, Gwen [D-WI-4]	D · WI		Jun 17, 2021
Rep. Ocasio-Cortez, Alexandria [D-NY-14]	D · NY		Jun 17, 2021
Rep. Omar, Ilhan [D-MN-5]	D · MN		Jun 17, 2021
Rep. Pressley, Ayanna [D-MA-7]	D · MA		Jun 17, 2021
Rep. Thompson, Bennie G. [D-MS-2]	D · MS		Jun 17, 2021
Rep. Tlaib, Rashida [D-MI-13]	D · MI		Jun 17, 2021
Rep. Correa, J. Luis [D-CA-46]	D · CA		Jun 21, 2021
Rep. DeGette, Diana [D-CO-1]	D · CO		Jun 21, 2021
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		Jun 29, 2021
Rep. Garcia, Jesus G. "Chuy" [D-IL-4]	D · IL		Jun 30, 2021
Rep. Blumenauer, Earl [D-OR-3]	D · OR		Jul 1, 2021
Rep. Jones, Mondaire [D-NY-17]	D · NY		Jul 2, 2021
Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]	D · MA		Feb 3, 2022
Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9]	D · IL		Apr 18, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Armed Services Committee	House	Referred To	Jun 17, 2021
Budget Committee	House	Referred To	Jun 17, 2021
Committee on House Administration	House	Referred To	Jun 17, 2021
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Jun 18, 2021
Financial Services Committee	House	Referred To	Jun 17, 2021
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Nov 1, 2022
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Nov 1, 2022
Oversight and Government Reform Committee	House	Referred To	Jun 17, 2021
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred to	Jun 21, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 S 481	Related bill	Feb 25, 2021: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Summary (as of Jun 17, 2021)

Drug Policy Reform Act of 2021 or the DPR Act of 2021

This bill transfers federal regulatory authority over controlled substances, eliminates federal penalties for some drug-related offenses, and removes some collateral consequences for certain criminal convictions. A collateral consequence is a penalty (e.g., a restriction on access to a program or service) imposed on an individual in addition to the penalty associated with the sentence.

Specifically, the bill transfers regulatory authority over controlled substances from the Department of Justice to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

Additionally, the bill directs HHS to establish a commission to determine a benchmark amount of a controlled substance for personal use supply. The bill eliminates federal criminal and civil penalties for simple possession of a controlled substance in an amount equal to or less than the benchmark.

Finally, the bill removes the collateral consequences of certain convictions. For example, the bill

- removes some restrictions on eligibility for federal assistance and benefits for individuals who are convicted of certain drug-related offenses,
- reinstates the right to vote in federal elections for persons convicted of criminal offenses, and
- repeals the requirement for states to revoke or suspend driver's licenses of individuals who are convicted of drug offenses as a condition of receiving a full allocation of certain federal grant funds.

Actions Timeline

- **Nov 1, 2022:** Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.
- **Nov 1, 2022:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.
- **Jun 21, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Highways and Transit.
- **Jun 18, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Jun 17, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Jun 17, 2021:** Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Oversight and Reform, Financial Services, Transportation and Infrastructure, House Administration, Armed Services, and the Budget, 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.