

## S 4511

### Black Lung Benefits Improvement Act of 2022

**Congress:** 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Labor and Employment

**Introduced:** Jul 13, 2022

**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. (Jul 13, 2022)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/4511>

## Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]

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

## Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Sep 7, 2022
Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA]	D · VA		Sep 7, 2022
Sen. Manchin, Joe, III [D-WV]	D · WV		Sep 7, 2022
Sen. Warner, Mark R. [D-VA]	D · VA		Sep 7, 2022

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jul 13, 2022

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Labor and Employment

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 6102	Related bill	Dec 23, 2022: Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 483.

## **Black Lung Benefits Improvement Act of 2022**

This bill revises requirements for miners' claims for pneumoconiosis (black lung disease) benefits.

Specifically, the bill requires the Department of Labor to

- pay the attorneys' fees of specified parties on a qualifying benefit claim,
- give a claimant the opportunity to substantiate a claim for benefits through a pulmonary evaluation,
- authorize a CT (computerized tomography) scan in diagnosing complicated pneumoconiosis, and
- develop a strategy to reduce delays in adjudication of black lung disease benefits claims.

The bill also establishes criteria that a mining operator must meet to self-insure against claims and increases from \$1,000 to \$25,000 the daily penalty amount that may be assessed against a mining operator that fails to make black lung benefits payments.

The bill authorizes (1) black lung disease clinics to use federal funds to help individuals file claims, and (2) certain previously denied claimants to file a new claim for black lung disease benefits within one year.

The bill prohibits a person from (1) knowingly and willfully making a false statement or misrepresentation in increasing or reducing black lung disease benefits, or (2) threatening or misleading a participant in a proceeding regarding such benefits.

Further, the bill revises (1) the standards of medical evidence that establish a presumption that a miner is totally disabled by black lung disease, and (2) payments to such miners.

Lastly, the bill provides statutory authority for the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs.

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### **Actions Timeline**

- **Jul 13, 2022:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 13, 2022:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.