

S 4556

Respect for Marriage Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Civil Rights and Liberties, Minority Issues

Introduced: Jul 19, 2022

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure:

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S3380) (Jul 19, 2022)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/4556>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]

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

Cosponsors (43 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Jul 19, 2022
Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]	R · ME		Jul 19, 2022
Sen. Portman, Rob [R-OH]	R · OH		Jul 20, 2022
Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]	D · CO		Nov 16, 2022
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Nov 16, 2022
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Nov 16, 2022
Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA]	D · WA		Nov 16, 2022
Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]	D · MD		Nov 16, 2022
Sen. Carper, Thomas R. [D-DE]	D · DE		Nov 16, 2022
Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		Nov 16, 2022
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Nov 16, 2022
Sen. Cortez Masto, Catherine [D-NV]	D · NV		Nov 16, 2022
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Nov 16, 2022
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Nov 16, 2022
Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]	D · NM		Nov 16, 2022
Sen. Hickenlooper, John W. [D-CO]	D · CO		Nov 16, 2022
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Nov 16, 2022
Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA]	D · VA		Nov 16, 2022
Sen. Kelly, Mark [D-AZ]	D · AZ		Nov 16, 2022
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		Nov 16, 2022
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Nov 16, 2022
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]	D · VT		Nov 16, 2022
Sen. Lujan, Ben Ray [D-NM]	D · NM		Nov 16, 2022
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Nov 16, 2022
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Nov 16, 2022
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Nov 16, 2022
Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT]	D · CT		Nov 16, 2022
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Nov 16, 2022
Sen. Ossoff, Jon [D-GA]	D · GA		Nov 16, 2022
Sen. Padilla, Alex [D-CA]	D · CA		Nov 16, 2022
Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]	D · MI		Nov 16, 2022
Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI]	D · RI		Nov 16, 2022
Sen. Rosen, Jacky [D-NV]	D · NV		Nov 16, 2022
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Nov 16, 2022
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		Nov 16, 2022
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Nov 16, 2022
Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]	D · MN		Nov 16, 2022
Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI]	D · MI		Nov 16, 2022
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Nov 16, 2022
Sen. Warnock, Raphael G. [D-GA]	D · GA		Nov 16, 2022
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Nov 16, 2022

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Nov 16, 2022
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Nov 16, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jul 19, 2022

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Civil Rights and Liberties, Minority Issues

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 8404	Related bill	Dec 13, 2022: Became Public Law No: 117-228.

Summary (as of Jul 19, 2022)

Respect for Marriage Act

This bill provides statutory authority for same-sex and interracial marriages.

Specifically, the bill repeals and replaces provisions that define, for purposes of federal law, *marriage* as between a man and a woman and *spouse* as a person of the opposite sex with provisions that recognize any marriage that is valid under state law. (The Supreme Court held that the current provisions were unconstitutional in *United States v. Windsor* in 2013.)

The bill also repeals and replaces provisions that do not require states to recognize same-sex marriages from other states with provisions that prohibit the denial of full faith and credit or any right or claim relating to out-of-state marriages on the basis of sex, gender, race, ethnicity, or national origin. (The Supreme Court held that state laws barring same-sex marriages were unconstitutional in *Obergefell v. Hodges* in 2015; the Court held that state laws barring interracial marriages were unconstitutional in *Loving v. Virginia* in 1967.) The bill allows the Department of Justice to bring a civil action and establishes a private right of action for violations.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 19, 2022:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 19, 2022:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S3380)