

S 490

Unemployment Insurance Technology Modernization Act of 2021

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Labor and Employment

Introduced: Mar 1, 2021

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Mar 1, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/490>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]

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

Cosponsors (21 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO] | D · CO | | Mar 1, 2021 |
| Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT] | D · CT | | Mar 1, 2021 |
| Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ] | D · NJ | | Mar 1, 2021 |
| Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH] | D · OH | | Mar 1, 2021 |
| Sen. Cortez Masto, Catherine [D-NV] | D · NV | | Mar 1, 2021 |
| Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL] | D · IL | | Mar 1, 2021 |
| Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA] | D · CA | | Mar 1, 2021 |
| Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY] | D · NY | | Mar 1, 2021 |
| Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI] | D · HI | | Mar 1, 2021 |
| Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA] | D · VA | | Mar 1, 2021 |
| Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN] | D · MN | | Mar 1, 2021 |
| Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA] | D · MA | | Mar 1, 2021 |
| Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ] | D · NJ | | Mar 1, 2021 |
| Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR] | D · OR | | Mar 1, 2021 |
| Sen. Rosen, Jacky [D-NV] | D · NV | | Mar 1, 2021 |
| Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT] | I · VT | | Mar 1, 2021 |
| Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI] | D · HI | | Mar 1, 2021 |
| Sen. Sinema, Kyrsten [D-AZ] | D · AZ | | Mar 1, 2021 |
| Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD] | D · MD | | Mar 1, 2021 |
| Sen. Warner, Mark R. [D-VA] | D · VA | | Mar 1, 2021 |
| Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA] | D · WA | | Sep 13, 2021 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|-------------------|---------|-------------|-------------|
| Finance Committee | Senate | Referred To | Mar 1, 2021 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Labor and Employment

Related Bills

| Bill | Relationship | Last Action |
|-------------|----------------|--|
| 117 HR 1458 | Identical bill | Mar 1, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Worker and Family Support. |

Summary (as of Mar 1, 2021)

Unemployment Insurance Technology Modernization Act of 2021

This bill requires the Department of Labor to study and report on the technology needs of federal and state unemployment compensation programs. Based on this study, Labor must develop, operate, and maintain a modular set of technology capabilities to modernize the delivery of unemployment compensation.

Before the deployment of the technology capabilities to all states, Labor must select at least four states to participate in a pilot program to test the technology capabilities and demonstrate that they meet requirements.

The bill establishes accessibility requirements for filing online unemployment compensation claims. In addition, it prohibits the technology capabilities from relying solely on a high-risk automated decision system to (1) deny a claim for unemployment compensation, (2) reduce the amount of unemployment compensation for which a claimant is eligible, or (3) deny a claimant's right to appeal an unemployment compensation decision.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 1, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 1, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.