

S 5038

Solitary Confinement Reform Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Crime and Law Enforcement

Introduced: Sep 29, 2022

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (text: CR S5549-5553; Sponsor introducer

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (text: CR S5549-5553; Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S5548-5553) (Sep 29, 2022)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/5038>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]

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

Cosponsors (6 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Sep 29, 2022
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Sep 29, 2022
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]	D · VT		Sep 29, 2022
Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT]	D · CT		Sep 29, 2022
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		Sep 29, 2022
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Sep 29, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Sep 29, 2022

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Solitary Confinement Reform Act

This bill establishes standards for the use of solitary confinement at federal prisons.

It generally limits the use of solitary confinement to situations that meet certain criteria, including confinement for the briefest term and under the least restrictive conditions practicable. It also limits the use of solitary confinement for certain categories of inmates, including pregnant women and individuals with serious mental illness.

The bill requires the Bureau of Prisons (BOP) to

- establish a transitional process for inmates in solitary confinement,
- provide comprehensive mental health evaluations for inmates in solitary confinement,
- train employees on mental illness and the psychological effects of solitary confinement, and
- report annually on the use of solitary confinement.

It establishes, within the BOP, an Office of the Civil Rights Ombudsman.

Finally, it establishes a solitary confinement resource center within the Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 29, 2022:** Introduced in Senate
- **Sep 29, 2022:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (text: CR S5549-5553; Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S5548-5553)