

S 515

Mental Health Justice Act of 2021

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Mar 1, 2021

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. (Mar 1, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/515>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]

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

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Mar 1, 2021
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Mar 1, 2021

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 2, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 7254	Related bill	Nov 1, 2022: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.
117 HR 8542	Related bill	Sep 27, 2022: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.
117 HR 1368	Related bill	Apr 28, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.

Mental Health Justice Act of 2021

This bill creates a grant program for states and local governments to train and dispatch mental health professionals to respond, instead of law enforcement officers, to emergencies that involve people with behavioral health needs.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) must manage the program in consultation with the Department of Justice (DOJ). SAMHSA may cancel grants that increase incarceration or institutionalization. Grantees must use funds for purposes including de-escalation and anti-racism training.

The Department of Health and Human Services and the DOJ must evaluate this program.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 1, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 1, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.