

HR 6102

Black Lung Benefits Improvement Act of 2022

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Labor and Employment

Introduced: Dec 1, 2021

Current Status: Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 483.

Latest Action: Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 483. (Dec 23, 2022)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/6102>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Cartwright, Matt [D-PA-8]

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

Cosponsors (13 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Scott, Robert C. "Bobby" [D-VA-3]	D · VA		Dec 1, 2021
Rep. Carson, Andre [D-IN-7]	D · IN		Dec 23, 2021
Rep. Adams, Alma S. [D-NC-12]	D · NC		Mar 9, 2022
Rep. Bowman, Jamaal [D-NY-16]	D · NY		Mar 15, 2022
Rep. Mfume, Kweisi [D-MD-7]	D · MD		Mar 15, 2022
Rep. Sherrill, Mikie [D-NJ-11]	D · NJ		Mar 28, 2022
Rep. DeSaulnier, Mark [D-CA-11]	D · CA		Mar 29, 2022
Rep. Levin, Andy [D-MI-9]	D · MI		Mar 29, 2022
Rep. Wilson, Frederica S. [D-FL-24]	D · FL		Mar 29, 2022
Rep. Bonamici, Suzanne [D-OR-1]	D · OR		Apr 1, 2022
Rep. Norcross, Donald [D-NJ-1]	D · NJ		Apr 4, 2022
Rep. Takano, Mark [D-CA-41]	D · CA		Apr 4, 2022
Rep. Lynch, Stephen F. [D-MA-8]	D · MA		Jul 28, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Education and Workforce Committee	House	Reported By	Dec 2, 2022
Ways and Means Committee	House	Discharged From	Dec 23, 2022

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Labor and Employment

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 S 4511	Related bill	Jul 13, 2022: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Summary (as of Dec 2, 2022)

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.

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 23, 2022:** Committee on Ways and Means discharged.
- **Dec 23, 2022:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 483.
- **Dec 15, 2022:** House Committee on Ways and Means Granted an extension for further consideration ending not later than Dec. 23, 2022.
- **Dec 2, 2022:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Education and Labor. H. Rept. 117-589.
- **Dec 2, 2022:** House Committee on Ways and Means Granted an extension for further consideration ending not later than Dec. 15, 2022.
- **Mar 16, 2022:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Mar 16, 2022:** Ordered to be Reported in the Nature of a Substitute by the Yeas and Nays: 28 - 22.
- **Dec 1, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Dec 1, 2021:** Referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.