

S 728

COVID–19 Hate Crimes Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Crime and Law Enforcement

Introduced: Mar 11, 2021

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Mar 11, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/728>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]

Party: Democratic • State: HI • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (15 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Mar 11, 2021
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Mar 11, 2021
Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA]	D · WA		Mar 11, 2021
Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]	D · IL		Mar 11, 2021
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Mar 11, 2021
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Mar 11, 2021
Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA]	D · VA		Mar 11, 2021
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Mar 11, 2021
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Mar 11, 2021
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Mar 11, 2021
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Mar 11, 2021
Sen. Padilla, Alex [D-CA]	D · CA		Mar 11, 2021
Sen. Rosen, Jacky [D-NV]	D · NV		Mar 11, 2021
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Mar 11, 2021
Sen. Warner, Mark R. [D-VA]	D · VA		Mar 11, 2021

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 11, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 S 937	Related bill	May 20, 2021: Became Public Law No: 117-13.
117 HR 1843	Related bill	May 18, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.
117 S 963	Related bill	Mar 25, 2021: Read the second time. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 30.

Summary (as of Mar 11, 2021)

COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act

This bill requires a designated officer or employee of the Department of Justice (DOJ) to facilitate the expedited review of COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019) hate crimes and reports of COVID-19 hate crimes.

It defines *COVID-19 hate crime* as a violent crime that is motivated by two things: (1) the actual or perceived characteristic (e.g., race or ethnicity) of any person, and (2) the actual or perceived relationship to the spread of COVID-19 of any person because of that characteristic.

The bill requires DOJ to issue guidance for state and local law enforcement agencies on how to establish online hate crime reporting processes in multiple languages and how to expand culturally competent education campaigns. Additionally, DOJ and the Department of Health and Human Services must issue guidance on best practices for mitigating racially discriminatory language in describing the COVID-19 pandemic.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 11, 2021:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 11, 2021:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.