

## S 739

Mens Rea Reform Act of 2021

**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/739>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Lee, Mike [R-UT]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** UT • **Chamber:** Senate

### Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Paul, Rand [R-KY]	R · KY		Mar 11, 2021
Sen. Tillis, Thomas [R-NC]	R · NC		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

*No related bills are listed.*

### Summary (as of Mar 11, 2021)

#### Mens Rea Reform Act of 2021

This bill establishes a default *mens rea* standard (i.e., state of mind requirement) for federal criminal offenses—statutory and regulatory—that lack an explicit standard.

The government must generally prove that a defendant acted willfully with respect to each element of an offense for which the text does not specify a state of mind.

### Actions Timeline

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