

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.