

S 79

EQUAL Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Crime and Law Enforcement

Introduced: Jan 28, 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. (Jan 28, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/79>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]

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

Cosponsors (35 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Jan 28, 2021
Sen. Portman, Rob [R-OH]	R · OH		May 10, 2021
Sen. Paul, Rand [R-KY]	R · KY		Jun 23, 2021
Sen. Tillis, Thomas [R-NC]	R · NC		Jul 13, 2021
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]	D · VT		Jul 15, 2021
Sen. Graham, Lindsey [R-SC]	R · SC		Oct 25, 2021
Sen. Ossoff, Jon [D-GA]	D · GA		Oct 25, 2021
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Oct 27, 2021
Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]	R · AK		Oct 27, 2021
Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]	R · ME		Dec 14, 2021
Sen. Padilla, Alex [D-CA]	D · CA		Dec 15, 2021
Sen. Lummis, Cynthia M. [R-WY]	R · WY		Jan 13, 2022
Sen. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV]	R · WV		Mar 15, 2022
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Mar 15, 2022
Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA]	D · VA		Mar 15, 2022
Sen. Moran, Jerry [R-KS]	R · KS		Mar 17, 2022
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Mar 21, 2022
Sen. Burr, Richard [R-NC]	R · NC		Mar 22, 2022
Sen. Manchin, Joe, III [D-WV]	D · WV		Mar 22, 2022
Sen. Blunt, Roy [R-MO]	R · MO		Apr 4, 2022
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Apr 4, 2022
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Dec 21, 2022
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Dec 21, 2022
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Dec 21, 2022
Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]	D · NM		Dec 21, 2022
Sen. Hickenlooper, John W. [D-CO]	D · CO		Dec 21, 2022
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Dec 21, 2022
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		Dec 21, 2022
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Dec 21, 2022
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Dec 21, 2022
Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]	D · MI		Dec 21, 2022
Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]	D · MN		Dec 21, 2022
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Dec 21, 2022
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Dec 21, 2022
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Dec 21, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jan 28, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 1693	Identical bill	Sep 29, 2021: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Summary (as of Jan 28, 2021)

Eliminating a Quantifiably Unjust Application of the Law Act or the EQUAL Act

This bill eliminates the federal sentencing disparity between drug offenses involving crack cocaine and powder cocaine.

Currently, different threshold quantities of crack cocaine and powder cocaine (e.g., 28 grams of crack cocaine and 500 grams of powder cocaine) trigger the same statutory criminal penalties.

This bill eliminates the lower quantity thresholds for crack cocaine offenses. Under the bill, the same threshold quantities of crack cocaine and powder cocaine trigger the same statutory criminal penalties.

The change applies to future cases and cases pending on the date of enactment. With respect to past cases, the bill authorizes resentencing of a defendant who was convicted or sentenced for a crack cocaine offense before the date of enactment.

Actions Timeline

- Jan 28, 2021: Introduced in Senate
- Jan 28, 2021: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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