

S 3706

Victims' VOICES Act

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Crime and Law Enforcement

Introduced: Jan 31, 2024

Current Status: Became Public Law No: 118-77.

Latest Action: Became Public Law No: 118-77. (Jul 30, 2024)

Law: 118-77 (Enacted Jul 30, 2024)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/3706>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]

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

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blackburn, Marsha [R-TN]	R · TN		Jan 31, 2024
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Jan 31, 2024
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Jan 31, 2024

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Discharged From	Mar 1, 2024

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Victims' Voices Outside and Inside the Courtroom Effectiveness Act or the Victims' VOICES Act

This act makes a person who has assumed a victim's rights eligible to receive restitution for certain expenses from a convicted defendant. The act applies to a person (i.e., legal guardian, representative of the victim's estate, another family member, or any other person appointed as suitable by the court) who has assumed the rights of a victim because such victim is under 18 years of age, incompetent, incapacitated, or deceased.

Under the Mandatory Victims Restitution Act of 1996, federal courts must order defendants who are convicted of certain crimes to pay restitution to their victims. This restitution must include the costs to reimburse the victim for lost income and necessary child care, transportation, and other expenses incurred while participating in the investigation or prosecution of the offense or attending proceedings relating to the offense, as well as medical and nonmedical care and treatment, and other associated costs.

This act specifies that, in ordering restitution, a court must order the defendant to pay restitution to a person who has assumed the victim's rights. In particular, the defendant must pay restitution to reimburse the person's necessary and reasonable costs for (1) lost income, child care, transportation, and other expenses associated with participating in the investigation or prosecution of the offense or attending proceedings relating to the offense; and (2) lost income, transportation, and other expenses associated with transporting a victim to receive medical and nonmedical care and treatment (including physical and occupational therapy and rehabilitation).

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 30, 2024:** Signed by President.
- **Jul 30, 2024:** Became Public Law No: 118-77.
- **Jul 25, 2024:** Presented to President.
- **Jul 23, 2024:** Considered as unfinished business. (consideration: CR H4742-4743)
- **Jul 23, 2024:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 408 - 2 (Roll no. 361). (text: 07/22/2024 CR H4654)
- **Jul 23, 2024:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 408 - 2 (Roll no. 361). (text: 07/22/2024 CR H4654)
- **Jul 23, 2024:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Jul 22, 2024:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H4654-4656)
- **Jul 22, 2024:** Ms. Hageman moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill.
- **Jul 22, 2024:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on S. 3706.
- **Jul 22, 2024:** At the conclusion of debate, the Yeas and Nays were demanded and ordered. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8, rule XX, the Chair announced that further proceedings on the motion would be postponed.
- **Mar 1, 2024:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Mar 1, 2024:** Received in the House.
- **Mar 1, 2024:** Held at the desk.
- **Feb 29, 2024:** Senate Committee on the Judiciary discharged by Unanimous Consent.
- **Feb 29, 2024:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate without amendment by Unanimous Consent.
- **Feb 29, 2024:** Passed Senate without amendment by Unanimous Consent. (consideration: CR S1090; text: CR S1090)
- **Jan 31, 2024:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 31, 2024:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

LegiList

CONGRESS, MADE CLEAR.

Search Every Federal Bill, Law, and Vote

LegiList is the fastest way to research Congress. Track any bill from introduction to enactment, see how every legislator voted, follow committee activity, and read the full text of every bill — all in one place, always up to date.

legilist.com

Free Course: Learn How Congress Actually Works

LegiList Learn is a free, self-paced course that walks through the entire legislative process — from drafting a bill to a presidential signature. Seven modules, plain language, no politics. Earn a certificate when you finish.

legilist.com/learn

Developer API: Build Apps on Legislative Data

The LegiList API gives developers direct access to bills, votes, legislators, committees, and more. Start free with 1,000 requests per day — no credit card required. Upgrade to Pro when you need to scale.

legilist.com/api

Public data belongs to the public. — legilist.com