

S 494

Background Check Expansion Act

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Crime and Law Enforcement

Introduced: Feb 16, 2023

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Feb 16, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/494>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT]

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

Cosponsors (48 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]	D · CO		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA]	D · WA		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]	D · MD		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Carper, Thomas R. [D-DE]	D · DE		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Cortez Masto, Catherine [D-NV]	D · NV		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]	D · IL		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Fetterman, John [D-PA]	D · PA		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Hassan, Margaret Wood [D-NH]	D · NH		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]	D · NM		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Hickenlooper, John W. [D-CO]	D · CO		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA]	D · VA		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Kelly, Mark [D-AZ]	D · AZ		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Lujan, Ben Ray [D-NM]	D · NM		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Murray, Patty [D-WA]	D · WA		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Ossoff, Jon [D-GA]	D · GA		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Padilla, Alex [D-CA]	D · CA		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]	D · MI		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI]	D · RI		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Rosen, Jacky [D-NV]	D · NV		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]	D · MN		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI]	D · MI		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Feb 16, 2023

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Warner, Mark R. [D-VA]	D · VA		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Warnock, Raphael G. [D-GA]	D · GA		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Welch, Peter [D-VT]	D · VT		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Feb 16, 2023
Sen. Butler, Laphonza R. [D-CA]	D · CA		Mar 6, 2024

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Feb 16, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HR 715	Related bill	Feb 1, 2023: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

Summary (as of Feb 16, 2023)

Background Check Expansion Act

This bill establishes new background check requirements for firearm transfers between private parties (i.e., unlicensed individuals).

Specifically, it prohibits a firearm transfer between private parties unless a licensed gun dealer, manufacturer, or importer first takes possession of the firearm to conduct a background check.

The prohibition does not apply to certain firearm transfers, such as a gift between spouses in good faith.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 16, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 16, 2023:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.