

S 640

Federal Employees Civil Relief Act

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Government Operations and Politics

Introduced: Mar 2, 2023

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Mar 2, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/640>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]

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

Cosponsors (16 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Mar 2, 2023
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Mar 2, 2023
Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]	D · MD		Mar 2, 2023
Sen. Cortez Masto, Catherine [D-NV]	D · NV		Mar 2, 2023
Sen. Duckworth, Tammy [D-IL]	D · IL		Mar 2, 2023
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Mar 2, 2023
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Mar 2, 2023
Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA]	D · VA		Mar 2, 2023
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		Mar 2, 2023
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Mar 2, 2023
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Mar 2, 2023
Sen. Padilla, Alex [D-CA]	D · CA		Mar 2, 2023
Sen. Sanders, Bernard [I-VT]	I · VT		Mar 2, 2023
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Mar 2, 2023
Sen. Warner, Mark R. [D-VA]	D · VA		Mar 2, 2023
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Mar 2, 2023

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 2, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HR 1301	Identical bill	Mar 1, 2023: Referred to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, Ways and Means, the Judiciary, Education and the Workforce, and House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

Summary (as of Mar 2, 2023)

Federal Employees Civil Relief Act

This bill establishes a framework to temporarily suspend certain judicial and administrative proceedings against a federal employee or contractor during a shutdown.

Under the bill, a *shutdown* is a period in which (1) there is more than a 24-hour lapse in appropriations for any federal agency or department because a regular appropriations bill or a continuing resolution has not been enacted, or (2) the debt of the federal government is greater than the statutory limit.

A federal worker (i.e., an employee of a government agency or contractor) who is furloughed or required to work without pay during a shutdown may apply to a court for a temporary stay, postponement, or suspension with respect to any payment of rent, mortgage, tax, fine, penalty, insurance premium, student loan repayment, or other civil obligation or liability that the worker owes or would owe during the duration of the shutdown.

The bill includes related provisions that restrict evictions, foreclosures, the enforcement of liens, and the termination of insurance policies during a shutdown. It also provides for the deferral of federal income taxes and student loan payments during a shutdown.

The Department of Justice may commence a civil action against any person who engages in (1) a pattern or practice of violating the requirements of this bill, or (2) a violation that raises an issue of significant public importance. A person aggrieved by a violation of this bill's requirements may also bring a private right of action.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 2, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 2, 2023:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

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