



Robert Carlyle Byrd

Party: Democratic • **Chamber:** Senate

State: WV

Service: 1953–2010

Most recent Congress: 111

Biography

A Representative and a Senator from West Virginia. Born in North Wilkesboro, Wilkes County, N. C. , November 20, 1917. Attended West Virginia public schools. Student at Beckley College, Concord College, Morris Harvey College, and Marshall College, all in West Virginia, and George Washington University Law School, Washington, D. C. Graduated, American University Law School 1963. Received Bachelor's degree in political science from Marshall University 1994. Member of the West Virginia house of delegates 1947-1950. Member of the West Virginia senate 1951-1952, resigning when elected to Congress. Elected as a Democrat to the Eighty-third, Eighty-fourth, and Eighty-fifth Congresses (January 3, 1953-January 3, 1959). Elected as a Democrat to the United States Senate in 1958 for the term commencing January 3, 1959, and served from January 3, 1959, until his death. Reelected in 1964, 1970, 1976, 1982, 1988, 1994, 2000, and again in 2006 for the term ending January 3, 2013. Secretary, Senate Democratic Conference 1967-1971. Democratic whip 1971-1977. Majority Leader and Democratic caucus chairman 1977-1980, 1987-1988. Minority Leader and Democratic caucus chairman 1981-1986. Chair, Democratic Policy Committee 1977-1989. President pro tempore (1989-1995, June 6, 2001-January 3, 2003, 2007-June 28, 2010). Chair, Committee on Appropriations (One Hundred First through One Hundred Third Congresses. One Hundred Seventh Congress [January 3-20, 2001. June 6, 2001-January 3, 2003]. One Hundred Tenth Congress). Died June 28, 2010. Lay in repose in the Senate Chamber July 1, 2010. Interment in Columbia Gardens Cemetery, Arlington, Va.

Legislative Activity (1953–2010)

Bills sponsored: 53

Bills cosponsored: 422

Most Recent Sponsored Bills

Bill	Title	Status / Last Action
111 SRES 487	A resolution honoring the coal miners who perished in the Upper Big Branch Mine-South in Raleigh County, West Virginia, extending the condolences of the United States Senate to the families of the fallen coal miners, and recognizing the valiant efforts of the emergency response workers.	Submitted in the Senate, considered, and agreed to without amendment and with a preamble by Unanimou Updated Apr 15, 2010
111 SRES 337	A resolution designating December 6, 2009, as "National Miners Day".	Resolution agreed to in Senate without amendment and with a preamble by Unanimous Consent. (text: CR Updated Dec 3, 2009
111 S 1579	Restore Our American Mustangs Act	Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources. Updated Aug 5, 2009
111 S 1529	Executive Accountability Act of 2009	Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S8548-8549) Updated Jul 30, 2009
111 S 1534	Appalachian Development Highway System Completion Act of 2009	Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. Updated Jul 29, 2009

Most Recent Cosponsored Bills

Bill	Title	Status / Last Action
111 S 1274	American Communities' Right to Public Information Act	By Senator Rockefeller from Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation filed written report. Updated Dec 22, 2010
111 S 846	A bill to award a congressional gold medal to Dr. Muhammad Yunus, in recognition of his contributions to the fight against global poverty.	Became Public Law No: 111-253. Updated Oct 5, 2010
111 S 1055	A bill to grant the congressional gold medal, collectively, to the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, United States Army, in recognition of their dedicated service during World War II.	Became Public Law No: 111-254. Updated Oct 5, 2010
111 S 951	New Frontier Congressional Gold Medal Act	Message received in the Senate: Returned to the Senate pursuant to the provisions of H.Res. 1653. Updated Sep 23, 2010
111 S 3162	A bill to clarify the health care provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs that constitutes minimum essential coverage.	Message received in the Senate: Returned to the Senate pursuant to the provisions of H.Res. 1653. Updated Sep 23, 2010