



Mr. Richard J. Durbin

Party: Democratic • **Chamber:** Senate

State: IL

Service: 1983–2025 (including current term)

Most recent Congress: 119

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Biography

A Senator and a Representative from Illinois. Born in East St. Louis, St. Clair County, Ill. , November 21, 1944. Graduated from Assumption High School, East St. Louis 1962. B. S. , Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, Washington, DC 1966. Intern in the office of Illinois Senator Paul Douglas during his senior year in college. J. D. , Georgetown University Law Center 1969. Admitted to the Illinois bar 1969, and commenced practice in Springfield. Legal counsel to Illinois Lieutenant Governor Paul Simon 1969-1972. Legal counsel, Illinois State senate judiciary committee 1972-1982. Democratic nominee for lieutenant governor of Illinois 1978. Associate professor, Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, Springfield 1978-1983. Delegate, Democratic National Conventions 1984, 1988, 1992 and 1996. Chairman of Illinois state delegation in 1996. Elected as a Democrat to the Ninety-eighth and to the six succeeding Congresses (January 3, 1983-January 2, 1997). Elected as a Democrat to the United States Senate in 1996. Reelected in 2002, 2008, 2014, and again in 2020 for the term ending January 3, 2027. Democratic party whip (2005-). Chair, Committee on the Judiciary (One Hundred Seventeenth and One Hundred Eighteenth Congresses).

Committee Memberships (Congress 119)

- Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee – Standing Member
- Appropriations Committee – Standing Member
- Commodities, Risk Management, and Trade Subcommittee – Subcommittee Member
- Criminal Justice and Counterterrorism Subcommittee – Subcommittee Ranking
- Department of Defense Subcommittee – Subcommittee Member
- Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee – Standing Member
- Energy and Water Development Subcommittee – Subcommittee Member
- Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee – Subcommittee Member
- Judiciary Committee – Standing Ranking
- Livestock, Dairy, Poultry, Local Food Systems, and Food Safety and Security Subcommittee – Subcommittee Member
- State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Subcommittee – Subcommittee Member
- Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee – Subcommittee Member

Legislative Activity (1983–2025)

Bills sponsored: 1068

Bills cosponsored: 6239

Most Recent Sponsored Bills

Bill	Title	Status / Last Action
119 S 4157	A bill to prohibit bailouts of digital asset market participants, and for other purposes.	Read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (text: CR S1380) Updated Mar 19, 2026
119 S 4153	A bill to phase out production of nonessential uses of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances, to prohibit releases of all perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances, and for other purposes.	Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. (text: CR S1370-1380) Updated Mar 19, 2026
119 S 4139	A bill to require the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, to submit a report on emerging threats posed to Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, and for other purposes.	Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. (text: CR S1207) Updated Mar 18, 2026
119 SRES 629	A resolution honoring the life and legacy of Reverend Jesse Louis Jackson, Sr., and commending him for his significant leadership during the Civil Rights Movement and his decades of advocacy in pursuit of justice, equality, and human rights.	Resolution agreed to in Senate without amendment and with a preamble by Unanimous Consent. (consider) Updated Mar 16, 2026
119 S 4104	A bill to direct the Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics to establish a database with respect to corporate offenses, and for other purposes.	Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (text: CR S1057) Updated Mar 16, 2026

Most Recent Cosponsored Bills

Bill	Title	Status / Last Action
119 S 4136	A bill to include a Federal defender as a nonvoting member of the United States Sentencing Commission.	Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. Updated Mar 18, 2026
119 S 4107	A bill to amend section 5 of the Clayton Act to include proposed voluntary dismissals in the court's consideration of proposed consent judgements and clarify the public interest, and for other purposes.	Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. Updated Mar 17, 2026
119 S 1884	Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act of 2025	Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection. Updated Mar 16, 2026
119 S 4094	A bill to require the Attorney General to recover certain payments made to the President.	Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. Updated Mar 12, 2026
119 S 4081	A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to ensure that certain caregiving employees are no longer exempted from overtime and minimum wage protections.	Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. Updated Mar 12, 2026