



Arlen Specter

Party: Republican • **Chamber:** Senate

State: PA

Service: 1981–2011

Most recent Congress: 111

Biography

A Senator from Pennsylvania. Born in Wichita, Sedgwick County, Kans. , February 12, 1930. Attended the public schools. Graduated, University of Pennsylvania 1951. Graduated, Yale University Law School 1956. Served in the United States Air Force 1951-1953. Admitted to the Pennsylvania bar in 1956 and commenced practice in Philadelphia. Assistant district attorney of Philadelphia 1959-1964. Assistant counsel, President's Commission on the Assassination of President Kennedy (Warren Commission) 1964. District attorney of Philadelphia 1966-1974. Resumed the practice of law 1974-1980. Admitted to the New Jersey bar in 1979 and to the District of Columbia bar in 1983. Elected as a Republican to the United States Senate in 1980. Reelected in 1986, 1992, 1998 and in 2004. Changed party affiliation, becoming a Democrat on April 30, 2009. Unsuccessful candidate for renomination to the Senate in 2010, and served from January 3, 1981, to January 3, 2011. Chair, Select Committee on Intelligence (One Hundred Fourth Congress), Committee on Veterans Affairs (One Hundred Fifth and One Hundred Sixth Congresses, One Hundred Seventh Congress [January 20, 2001-June 6, 2001], One Hundred Eighth Congress), Committee on the Judiciary (One Hundred Ninth Congress). Died October 14, 2012. Interment in Shalom Memorial Park, Huntingdon Valley, Pa.

Legislative Activity (1981–2011)

Bills sponsored: 369

Bills cosponsored: 1201

Most Recent Sponsored Bills

Bill	Title	Status / Last Action
111 S 4054	Notice Pleading Restoration Act of 2010	Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. Updated Dec 22, 2010
111 S 4045	Armed Career Criminal Sentencing Act of 2010	Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. Updated Dec 17, 2010
111 S 4032	Designer Anabolic Steroid Control Act of 2010	Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. Updated Dec 15, 2010
111 S 4033	Restoration of Legal Rights for Claimants under Holocaust-Era Insurance Policies Act of 2010	Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. Updated Dec 15, 2010
111 S 3940	A bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 700 Grant Street in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania as the "Richard Lewis Thornburgh Courthouse".	Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works. Updated Nov 15, 2010

Most Recent Cosponsored Bills

Bill	Title	Status / Last Action
111 S 841	Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Act of 2010	Became Public Law No: 111-373. Updated Jan 4, 2011
111 S 2982	International Violence Against Women Act of 2010	Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 725. Updated Dec 21, 2010
111 S 1619	Livable Communities Act of 2009	Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 716. Updated Dec 19, 2010
111 S 3804	Combating Online Infringement and Counterfeits Act	By Senator Leahy from Committee on the Judiciary filed written report. Report No. 111-373. Updated Dec 17, 2010
111 S 1102	Domestic Partnership Benefits and Obligations Act of 2009	Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 704. Updated Dec 17, 2010