

Appendix A. Climate Change Legislation in the 117th Congress: Search Methodology

The “Legislative Proposals in the 117th Congress” section of this report identified bills by running a number of searches in Congress.gov, an authoritative and up-to-date resource for legislation, which is updated daily when Congress is in session. Initial searches were run in May 2021 and subsequent searches were run to update legislation until September 27, 2021. CRS compiled a list of search terms related to adaptation, greenhouse gas emissions (including sources of emissions by economic sector), climate change mitigation (including technologies), climate change impacts, climate change economics, climate change finance, and research and development. CRS also sought to include terms relevant to climate change policy at an international scale (such as potential U.S. participation in international agreements or bilateral or multilateral funding assistance). CRS grouped these terms within five broad categories: adaptation, energy, equity, finance, and land use. Each of the five searches was run in the full text of all legislation introduced in the 117th Congress, and results were downloaded into Excel for analysis.¹⁷¹ Individual search results were tagged with the broad topic tag associated with the search from which they resulted (i.e., “adaptation” or “finance”). Duplicate bills (i.e., bills that were identified in more than one search) were assigned a broad topic tag for each search in which they were identified, and then all but one listing was removed from analysis. Amendments and resolutions were also removed from the spreadsheet. CRS identified a number of bills as not relevant—meaning these bills contained search terms but did not translate to relevant provisions—by reviewing titles, summaries (where available), and full text. CRS removed these bills from consideration. CRS also included all relevant related and companion bills (as identified in Congress.gov) in analysis. Additional searches were run using the “introducedDate:” function in Congress.gov to identify both newly introduced legislation as well as updated bill status and other metadata that may have changed since the prior search.

Bill Status Table

Table A-1 was created by using Congress.gov’s “Status of Legislation” filter in each set of search results. Each set of results was limited to the following statuses: Became Public Law, Passed Both Chambers, Passed One Chamber, or Floor Consideration. Thirty-four of the more than 750 legislative proposals that CRS identified progressed beyond introduction in the legislative process, as of September 27, 2021, and are identified in **Table A-1**. Many of these bills fit into multiple broad topic categories. Also, some bills may contain relatively small provisions addressing climate change, while others are solely focused on that topic in one or more sectors. Twenty-seven of the 34 bills fell within the energy category, and 18 of the 34 fell within the adaptation category. **Table A-1** reflects the September 27, 2021, search, the most recent search conducted for this report.

¹⁷¹ Search results available at the following links: Adaptation: <https://go.usa.gov/xMhxN>; Energy: <https://go.usa.gov/xMhxR>; Equity: <https://go.usa.gov/xMhxn>; Finance: <https://go.usa.gov/xMhxQ>; and Land use: <https://go.usa.gov/xMhxU>.

Table A-1. Selected Climate Change Legislation in the 117th Congress

Status of bills that have at least received floor consideration

Bill No.	Title	Broad Sector Tag(s)	Vote Information (date)	Last Action if not vote (date)
S. 914	Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021	Adaptation, energy, equity	Passed Senate 89-2 (4/29/21); Record Vote Number 178	Committee report filed; Report No. 117-20 (5/10/2021)
S. 1251	Growing Climate Solutions Act of 2021	Energy, land use	Passed Senate 92-8 (6/24/21); Record Vote Number 251	Received in House and held at desk (6/24/21)
S. 1260	United States Innovation and Competition Act of 2021	Adaptation, energy, finance	Passed Senate 68-32 (5/28/21); Record Vote Number 226	
S. 2093	For the People Act of 2021	Adaptation, energy	Cloture not invoked (6/22/21); Record vote 246	Cloture motion on the motion to proceed to the measure withdrawn by unanimous consent in Senate (9/15/2021)
H.R. 1	For the People Act of 2021	Adaptation, energy	Passed House 220-210 (3/3/21); Roll call vote number 62	Received in the Senate (3/11/21)
H.R. 447	National Apprenticeship Act of 2021	Adaptation, energy, equity	Passed House 247-173 (2/5/21); Roll call vote number 31	Received in Senate and referred to Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (2/25/21)
H.R. 610	San Francisco Bay Restoration Act	Adaptation, energy	Passed/agreed to in House under suspension of the rules (6/15/2021)	Received in Senate and referred to Committee on Environment and Public Works (6/16/2021)
H.R. 803	Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act	Energy, equity, land use	Passed House 227-200 (2/26/21); Roll call vote number 45	Received in Senate and referred to Committee on Energy and Natural Resources (3/2/2021)
H.R. 1144	Promoting United Government Efforts to Save Our Sound Act	Adaptation, energy	Passed/agreed to in House under suspension of the rules (6/15/2021)	Received in Senate and referred to Committee on Environment and Public Works (6/16/2021)