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## The RECA Extension Act

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In 1990, the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act (RECA) was signed into law, providing a one-time cash benefit to certain persons who participated in atomic weapons testing or lived near the Nevada Test Site during periods of atmospheric (above-ground) atomic weapons testing between 1951 and 1992. To date, RECA has awarded over \$2.4 billion in benefits to more than 38,000 claimants.<sup>1</sup> It is scheduled to sunset on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

Benefits are also available to certain uranium miners, mill workers, and ore transporters who worked in the uranium industry between 1942 and 1971 when the federal government stopped its procurement of uranium for the atomic weapons program.<sup>2</sup> All RECA claimants must have contracted one of the medical conditions specified in statute after exposure to ionizing radiation from the detonation of an atomic weapon or after working in the uranium industry.<sup>3</sup>

All Americans who live within geographic areas that have been found, with evidence-based data, to be adversely affected by atomic weapons testing should be eligible for compensation. A reauthorization of the RECA program ensures that this compensation can continue to be available to those harmed by federal atomic weapon testing.

### Bill Specifics

- Reauthorizes RECA for 2 years.

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<sup>1</sup> Department of Justice, Radiation Exposure Compensation System, *Awards to Date Summary of Claims Received by 09/03/2021*, September 7, 2021. <https://www.justice.gov/civil/awards-date-09072021>

<sup>2</sup> In WA, OR, ID, UT, WY, SD, ND, CO, NM, AZ, and TX

<sup>3</sup>Leukemia, but NOT chronic lymphocytic leukemia, multiple myeloma, primary cancer of the pharynx, lymphomas other than Hodgkin's disease, primary cancer of the small intestine, primary cancer of the salivary gland, primary cancer of the brain, primary cancer of the stomach, primary cancer of the urinary bladder, primary cancer of the colon, primary cancer of the thyroid, primary cancer of the pancreas, primary breast cancer, primary cancer of the esophagus, primary cancer of the bile ducts, primary cancer of the liver, primary cancer of the gall bladder, primary cancer of the lung, primary cancer of the ovary.

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