

S 469

TRACE Act

Congress: 108 (2003–2005, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Crime and Law Enforcement

Introduced: Feb 27, 2003

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (text of measure as introduced: CR S2926-

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (text of measure as introduced: CR S2926-2927) (Feb 27, 2003)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/108th-congress/senate-bill/469>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Kohl, Herb [D-WI]

Party: Democratic • **State:** WI • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (9 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Corzine, Jon S. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Feb 27, 2003
Sen. DeWine, Mike [R-OH]	R · OH		Feb 27, 2003
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Feb 27, 2003
Sen. Levin, Carl [D-MI]	D · MI		Feb 27, 2003
Sen. Mikulski, Barbara A. [D-MD]	D · MD		Feb 27, 2003
Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI]	D · RI		Feb 27, 2003
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Feb 27, 2003
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Feb 24, 2004
Sen. Lautenberg, Frank R. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Nov 17, 2004

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Feb 27, 2003

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Technological Resource to Assist Criminal Enforcement (TRACE) Act - Amends the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act to require a licensed manufacturer or importer of firearms to: (1) test fire manufactured or imported firearms as specified by the Attorney General; (2) prepare ballistics images of the fired bullet and cartridge casings; (3) make the records available to the Attorney General for entry into an electronic database; and (4) store the fired bullet and cartridge casings.

Directs the Attorney General to assist firearm manufacturers and importers in complying with these requirements by: (1) acquiring, installing, and upgrading ballistics equipment and bullet and cartridge casing recovery equipment; (2) hiring or designating sufficient personnel to develop and maintain a ballistics database; (3) providing education about the role of ballistics; and (4) providing for the coordination among law enforcement, regulatory agencies, and the firearm industry to curb firearm-related crime and illegal firearm trafficking.

Requires the Attorney General to: (1) establish an electronic database through which State and local law enforcement agencies can promptly access ballistics records that shall not include any identifying information regarding dealers, collectors, or purchasers of firearms; (2) require training for all ballistics examiners; (3) conduct mandatory ballistics testing of all firearms obtained or in the possession of the Department of Justice; and (4) report to Congress on the implementation of this Act.

Prohibits the use of ballistics information of individual guns for prosecutorial purposes unless officials have a reasonable belief that a crime has been committed and that ballistics information would assist in the investigation.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 27, 2003:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 27, 2003:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S2925-2926)
- **Feb 27, 2003:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (text of measure as introduced: CR S2926-2927)

LegiList

CONGRESS, MADE CLEAR.

Search Every Federal Bill, Law, and Vote

LegiList is the fastest way to research Congress. Track any bill from introduction to enactment, see how every legislator voted, follow committee activity, and read the full text of every bill — all in one place, always up to date.

legilist.com

Free Course: Learn How Congress Actually Works

LegiList Learn is a free, self-paced course that walks through the entire legislative process — from drafting a bill to a presidential signature. Seven modules, plain language, no politics. Earn a certificate when you finish.

legilist.com/learn

Developer API: Build Apps on Legislative Data

The LegiList API gives developers direct access to bills, votes, legislators, committees, and more. Start free with 1,000 requests per day — no credit card required. Upgrade to Pro when you need to scale.

legilist.com/api

Public data belongs to the public. — legilist.com