

S 1257

A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to clarify that persons may bring private rights of actions against foreign states for certain terrorist acts, and for other purposes.

Congress: 109 (2005–2007, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: Jun 16, 2005

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (text of measure as introduced: CR S6747)

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (text of measure as introduced: CR S6747) (Jun 16, 2005)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/109th-congress/senate-bill/1257>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Specter, Arlen [R-PA]

Party: Republican • **State:** PA • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (2 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|----------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Sen. Lautenberg, Frank R. [D-NJ] | D · NJ | | Jun 16, 2005 |
| Sen. DeWine, Mike [R-OH] | R · OH | | Mar 1, 2006 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|---------------------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Judiciary Committee | Senate | Referred To | Jun 16, 2005 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

| Bill | Relationship | Last Action |
|------------|--------------|--|
| 109 HR 865 | Related bill | Apr 4, 2005: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security. |

Amends the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act of 1976 (FSIA) to require that a foreign state designated as a state sponsor of terrorism under specified laws, or an official, employee, or agent of such a foreign state, shall be liable to a U.S. national for the national's personal injury or death caused by acts of that state or official, employee, or agent acting within the scope of his or her duties.

Provides that the removal of a foreign state from designation as a state sponsor of terrorism shall not terminate such a cause of action arising during the period of designation.

Authorizes U.S. courts to exercise jurisdiction over such actions for money damages under an FSIA provision concerning acts of torture, extrajudicial killing, aircraft sabotage, hostage taking, and material support for such acts. Mandates that property interests of foreign states, or agencies or instrumentalities of foreign states, against which judgment is entered pursuant to such provision are subject to attachment execution.

Requires foreign states to be held vicariously liable for the actions of their officials, employees, or agents.

Amends the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (VCA) to modify the definition of "victim" for purposes of compensation under that Act. Requires the transfer of VCA funds to carry out an order appointing Special Masters in the matter of Peterson, et al. v. The Islamic Republic of Iran.

Revives previously dismissed causes of action that would be cognizable under this Act by retroactively tolling the applicable statute of limitations from the date of initial filing to 60 days after enactment of this Act.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 16, 2005:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jun 16, 2005:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S6746-6747)
- **Jun 16, 2005:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (text of measure as introduced: CR S6747)