

S 1606

Foreign Manufacturers Legal Accountability Act of 2009

Congress: 111 (2009–2011, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Law

Introduced: Aug 6, 2009

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Aug 6, 2009)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/senate-bill/1606>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]

Party: Democratic • State: RI • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (15 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Aug 6, 2009
Sen. Sessions, Jeff [R-AL]	R · AL		Aug 6, 2009
Sen. Nelson, Bill [D-FL]	D · FL		Sep 14, 2009
Sen. Landrieu, Mary L. [D-LA]	D · LA		Oct 27, 2009
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Nov 9, 2009
Sen. Specter, Arlen [D-PA]	D · PA		Nov 18, 2009
Sen. Graham, Lindsey [R-SC]	R · SC		Dec 1, 2009
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]	D · VT		Feb 1, 2010
Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]	D · CO		Feb 2, 2010
Sen. Kaufman, Edward E. [D-DE]	D · DE		Feb 9, 2010
Sen. Pryor, Mark L. [D-AR]	D · AR		Feb 9, 2010
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Feb 25, 2010
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Mar 15, 2010
Sen. McCaskill, Claire [D-MO]	D · MO		Mar 22, 2010
Sen. Brown, Scott P. [R-MA]	R · MA		May 27, 2010

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	Aug 6, 2009

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Law

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
111 HR 4678	Related bill	Dec 22, 2010: Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 413.

Summary (as of Aug 6, 2009)

Foreign Manufacturers Legal Accountability Act of 2009 - Expresses the sense of Congress with respect to jurisdiction of courts in the United States over foreign manufacturers that import products into the United States.

Directs the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) (with respect to drugs, devices, cosmetics, and biological products), the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) (with respect to consumer products), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (with respect to chemical substances, new chemical substances, and pesticides) to require foreign manufacturers and producers of such products (or components used to manufacture them), in excess of a minimum value or quantity, to establish a registered agent in the United States who is authorized to accept service of process on their behalf for the purpose of all civil and regulatory actions in state and federal courts. Requires the registered agent to be located in a state with a substantial connection to the importation, distribution, or sale of the products. Directs the Secretary of Commerce to establish, maintain, and make available to the public a registry of such agents.

Deems a foreign manufacturer or producer of products covered under this Act that registers an agent to consent to the personal jurisdiction of the state or federal courts of the state in which the agent is located for the purpose of any civil or regulatory proceeding.

Prohibits importation into the United States of a covered product (or component part that will be used in the United States to manufacture a covered product) if the product (or component part) or any part of the product (or component part) was manufactured or produced outside the United States by a manufacturer or producer who does not have a registered agent whose authority is in effect on the date of the importation.

Requires the Secretary of Agriculture and the Commissioner of Food and Drugs to jointly study the feasibility and advisability of requiring foreign producers of food distributed in commerce to establish a registered agent in the United States who is authorized to accept service of process on behalf of such producers for the purpose of all civil and regulatory actions in state and federal courts.

Actions Timeline

- **Aug 6, 2009:** Introduced in Senate
- **Aug 6, 2009:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S9007-9008)
- **Aug 6, 2009:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.