

HR 3210

RELIEF Act

Congress: 112 (2011–2013, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Environmental Protection

Introduced: Oct 14, 2011

Current Status: Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 439.

Latest Action: Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 439. (Jul 17, 2012)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/112th-congress/house-bill/3210>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Cooper, Jim [D-TN-5]

Party: Democratic • **State:** TN • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (21 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Blackburn, Marsha [R-TN-7]	R · TN		Oct 14, 2011
Rep. Bono Mack, Mary [R-CA-45]	R · CA		Oct 14, 2011
Rep. Grimm, Michael G. [R-NY-13]	R · NY		Nov 3, 2011
Rep. Roe, David P. [R-TN-1]	R · TN		Nov 3, 2011
Rep. DesJarlais, Scott [R-TN-4]	R · TN		Nov 4, 2011
Rep. Marchant, Kenny [R-TX-24]	R · TX		Nov 4, 2011
Rep. Paul, Ron [R-TX-14]	R · TX		Nov 4, 2011
Rep. Coble, Howard [R-NC-6]	R · NC		Nov 15, 2011
Rep. Ellmers, Renee L. [R-NC-2]	R · NC		Nov 15, 2011
Rep. Rohrabacher, Dana [R-CA-46]	R · CA		Nov 15, 2011
Rep. Hunter, Duncan D. [R-CA-52]	R · CA		Nov 16, 2011
Rep. Manzullo, Donald A. [R-IL-16]	R · IL		Nov 16, 2011
Rep. Paulsen, Erik [R-MN-3]	R · MN		Nov 16, 2011
Rep. Young, Don [R-AK-At Large]	R · AK		Nov 16, 2011
Rep. McClintonck, Tom [R-CA-4]	R · CA		Nov 18, 2011
Rep. Kingston, Jack [R-GA-1]	R · GA		Dec 1, 2011
Rep. Ruppersberger, C. A. Dutch [D-MD-2]	D · MD		Dec 7, 2011
Rep. Ryan, Tim [D-OH-17]	D · OH		Dec 13, 2011
Rep. Posey, Bill [R-FL-15]	R · FL		Jan 18, 2012
Rep. Matheson, Jim [D-UT-2]	D · UT		Feb 15, 2012
Rep. McCotter, Thaddeus G. [R-MI-11]	R · MI		Mar 19, 2012

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Natural Resources Committee	House	Discharged from	Jun 7, 2012

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Environmental Protection

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of Jul 17, 2012)

Retailers and Entertainers Lacey Implementation and Enforcement Fairness Act or the RELIEF Act - (Sec. 3) Amends the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to: (1) make such Act inapplicable to any plant that was imported into the United States before May 22, 2008, or any finished plant or plant product the assembly and processing of which was completed before such date; (2) limit the application of plant importation declaration requirements to plants that are entered for consumption; and (3) exclude from declaration requirements a plant product that is derived from a tree unless the product is solid wood (requires the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to issue regulations that define the term "solid wood" for such purpose).

Provides that: (1) civil forfeiture provisions that prohibit any person from asserting an ownership interest in contraband or other property that it is illegal to possess, or that prohibit the federal government from being required to return contraband or other property that the person from whom the property was seized may not legally possess, shall not apply to plants or plant products; and (2) civil forfeiture provisions of such Act are the sole authority for civil seizure or forfeiture actions alleging, or predicated upon, a violation of such Act.

(Sec. 4) Prohibits any person from importing, exporting, transporting, selling, receiving, acquiring, or purchasing in interstate or foreign commerce, or any person within the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States from possessing, a plant taken, possessed, transported, or sold: (1) without the payment of appropriate royalties, taxes, or stumpage fees required for the plant by any law or regulation of any state or any foreign law that is directed at the protection, conservation, and management of plants; and (2) in violation of any limitation under any law or regulation of any state, or under foreign law, governing the export or transshipment of plants and that is directed at the protection, conservation, and management of plants

Limits the application of a civil penalty under such Act for violations of foreign laws to violations of foreign laws that are directed at the protection, conservation, and management of plants.

Requires the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Commerce, as program responsibilities are vested pursuant to the provisions of Reorganization Plan Numbered 4 of 1970, to review the implementation of plant declarations with 180 days. Requires the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (currently, the Secretary of Commerce) to report on plant declaration requirements, including an evaluation of the feasibility of creating a publicly available database of laws of foreign countries from which plants are exported.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 17, 2012:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Natural Resources. H. Rept. 112-604.
- **Jul 17, 2012:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 439.
- **Jun 7, 2012:** Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs Discharged.
- **Jun 7, 2012:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Jun 7, 2012:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by the Yeas and Nays: 25 - 19.
- **May 8, 2012:** Subcommittee Hearings Held.
- **Oct 18, 2011:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans, and Insular Affairs.
- **Oct 14, 2011:** Introduced in House
- **Oct 14, 2011:** Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.