

## HR 1493

Protect and Preserve International Cultural Property Act

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** International Affairs

**Introduced:** Mar 19, 2015

**Current Status:** Became Public Law No: 114-151.

**Latest Action:** Became Public Law No: 114-151. (May 9, 2016)

**Law:** 114-151 (Enacted May 9, 2016)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/1493>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Engel, Eliot L. [D-NY-16]

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

### Cosponsors (8 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Keating, William R. [D-MA-9]	D · MA		Mar 19, 2015
Rep. Royce, Edward R. [R-CA-39]	R · CA		Mar 19, 2015
Rep. Smith, Christopher H. [R-NJ-4]	R · NJ		Mar 19, 2015
Rep. Sires, Albio [D-NJ-8]	D · NJ		Apr 22, 2015
Rep. Cicilline, David N. [D-RI-1]	D · RI		Apr 23, 2015
Rep. Poe, Ted [R-TX-2]	R · TX		Apr 23, 2015
Rep. Sherman, Brad [D-CA-30]	D · CA		Apr 23, 2015
Rep. Vargas, Juan [D-CA-51]	D · CA		May 13, 2015

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Armed Services Committee	House	Referred To	Mar 19, 2015
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Markup By	Apr 23, 2015
Foreign Relations Committee	Senate	Reported By	Feb 2, 2016
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred To	Mar 19, 2015
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 27, 2015

### Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

International Affairs

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 S 1887	Related bill	<b>Jul 29, 2015:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

(This measure has not been amended since it was passed by the Senate on April 13, 2016. The summary of that version is repeated here.)

### **Protect and Preserve International Cultural Property Act**

(Sec. 2) This bill expresses the sense of Congress that the President should establish an interagency coordinating committee to coordinate and advance executive branch efforts to protect and preserve international cultural property at risk from political instability, armed conflict, or natural or other disasters.

(Sec. 3) The President shall apply specified import restrictions with respect to any archaeological or ethnological material of Syria:

- within 90 days;
- without regard to whether Syria is a state party to the convention on the means of prohibiting and preventing the illicit import, export, and transfer of ownership of cultural property (adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization); and
- notwithstanding the requirement that an emergency condition applies.

The President shall at least once a year determine whether at least one of the following conditions is met: (1) Syria is incapable of fulfilling the requirements to request an agreement pursuant to the Convention on Cultural Property Implementation Act, and (2) it would be against the U.S. national interest to enter into such an agreement.

The President may waive such import restrictions for specified cultural property if the President certifies to Congress that: (1) the foreign owner or custodian of the specified cultural property has requested that the property be temporarily located in the United States for protection purposes, (2) the property shall be returned upon request to the foreign owner or custodian, and (3) the grant of a waiver will not contribute to illegal trafficking in cultural property or financing of criminal or terrorist activities.

Any archaeological or ethnological material that enters the United States pursuant to a waiver shall have immunity from seizure under P.L. 89-259 (which provides immunity from seizure for cultural items imported for temporary exhibition.)

(Sec. 4) The President shall report annually to Congress on executive branch efforts to protect and preserve international cultural property.

## Actions Timeline

---

- **May 9, 2016:** Signed by President.
- **May 9, 2016:** Became Public Law No: 114-151.
- **Apr 29, 2016:** Presented to President.
- **Apr 26, 2016:** Mr. Royce moved that the House suspend the rules and agree to the Senate amendment. (consideration: CR H1984-1987)
- **Apr 26, 2016:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with 40 minutes of debate on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the Senate amendment to H.R. 1493.
- **Apr 26, 2016:** Resolving differences -- House actions: On motion that the House suspend the rules and agree to the Senate amendment Agreed to by voice vote.(text as House agreed to Senate amendment: CR H1984-1985)
- **Apr 26, 2016:** On motion that the House suspend the rules and agree to the Senate amendment Agreed to by voice vote. (text as House agreed to Senate amendment: CR H1984-1985)
- **Apr 26, 2016:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Apr 14, 2016:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Apr 13, 2016:** Measure laid before Senate by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR S2062-2063)
- **Apr 13, 2016:** The committee substitute as amended agreed to by Unanimous Consent. (text of committee substitute as amended: CR S2062-2063)
- **Apr 13, 2016:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.
- **Apr 13, 2016:** Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.
- **Feb 2, 2016:** Committee on Foreign Relations. Reported by Senator Corker with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. Without written report.
- **Feb 2, 2016:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 360.
- **Jan 28, 2016:** Committee on Foreign Relations. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Jun 2, 2015:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.
- **Jun 1, 2015:** Mr. Chabot moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Jun 1, 2015:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H3627-3632)
- **Jun 1, 2015:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 1493.
- **Jun 1, 2015:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote.(text: CR H3627-3629)
- **Jun 1, 2015:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H3627-3629)
- **Jun 1, 2015:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Apr 23, 2015:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Apr 23, 2015:** Ordered to be Reported by Unanimous Consent.
- **Mar 27, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Trade.
- **Mar 19, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 19, 2015:** Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Armed Services, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.