

S 237

GPS Act

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Crime and Law Enforcement

Introduced: Jan 22, 2015

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Jan 22, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/237>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]

Party: Democratic • State: OR • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Kirk, Mark Steven [R-IL]	R · IL		Jan 22, 2015
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Nov 18, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jan 22, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 656	Related bill	Mar 17, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.
114 HR 491	Related bill	Feb 19, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.

Geolocation Privacy and Surveillance Act or the GPS Act

Amends the federal criminal code to prohibit intentionally: (1) intercepting geolocation information pertaining to another person; (2) disclosing to any other person such information pertaining to another, knowing that the information was obtained in violation of this Act; (3) using geolocation information, knowing that the information was obtained in violation of this Act; or (4) disclosing to any other person the geolocation information pertaining to another person intercepted by means authorized under this Act, knowing that the information was obtained in connection with a criminal investigation, having obtained or received information in connection with a criminal investigation, with intent to improperly obstruct, impede, or interfere with a duly authorized criminal investigation. Sets penalties for violations.

Makes specified exceptions for interceptions involving: (1) information acquired by a provider of a covered service (electronic communication service, remote computing service, or geolocation information service) in the normal course of business; (2) federal officers, employees, or agents conducting foreign intelligence surveillance; (3) persons having given prior consent; (4) public information; (5) emergency information; (6) theft; and (7) a warrant.

Prohibits: (1) a person providing a covered service from intentionally divulging geolocation information pertaining to another person, with exceptions; and (2) the use of such information, and evidence derived from it, as evidence.

Authorizes: (1) the use of geolocation information by investigative or law enforcement officers, or by a state's principal prosecuting attorney, to intercept such information under specified emergency circumstances; and (2) the recovery of civil damages by any person whose geolocation information is intercepted, disclosed, or intentionally used in violation of this Act.

Modifies the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure to require a search warrant to acquire geolocation information.

Amends the federal criminal code to include any geolocation information service within the definition of a "covered entity" for purposes of provisions prohibiting obtaining confidential phone records information from such an entity by fraud or related activity.

Directs the United States Sentencing Commission to review the federal sentencing guidelines and policy statements applicable to persons convicted of fraud and related activity in connection with obtaining certain confidential phone records information.

Prohibits acquiring geolocation information of a person for protective activities or law enforcement or intelligence purposes except pursuant to a warrant issued under the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure or the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 22, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 22, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.