

## S 2544

### Stop Illegal Trafficking in Firearms Act of 2016

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Crime and Law Enforcement

**Introduced:** Feb 11, 2016

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure:

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S877-879) (Feb 11, 2016)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/2544>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** VT • **Chamber:** Senate

### Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]	R · ME		Feb 11, 2016
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Feb 11, 2016
Sen. Kirk, Mark Steven [R-IL]	R · IL		Feb 11, 2016
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Mar 3, 2016

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Feb 11, 2016

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

### Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

## **Stop Illegal Trafficking in Firearms Act of 2016**

This bill amends the federal criminal code to prohibit and punish the straw purchasing of firearms. A straw purchase occurs when: (1) a person buys a firearm from an unlicensed seller on behalf of a person prohibited by law from possessing one, or (2) a person buys a firearm from a licensed dealer on behalf of another person.

Any person that commits, attempts, or conspires to commit a straw purchasing offense is subject to a fine and/or prison term of up to 15 years (25 years if the firearm is used to commit a crime of violence).

The bill expands the penalty for committing a firearms trafficking offense. Individuals who commit such an offense are subject to a fine and/or prison term of up to 15 years. Under current law, the penalty is a fine and/or prison term of up to 10 years.

The U.S. Sentencing Commission shall amend the sentencing guidelines and policy statements to reflect increased penalties for persons convicted of straw purchasing firearms or firearms trafficking offenses.

Under current law, it is unlawful to import firearms into the United States with the intent to engage in illegal activity. This bill extends the prohibition to the exportation of firearms.

The bill makes it unlawful for any person to sell or otherwise dispose of any firearm or ammunition to any person knowing or having reasonable cause to believe that such person intends to transfer the firearm or ammunition in furtherance of a federal crime of terrorism, a crime of violence, or a drug trafficking offense.

Neither the Department of Justice (DOJ) nor its law enforcement coordinate agencies shall facilitate the transfer of an operable firearm to an individual if any DOJ law enforcement officer involved knows or has reasonable cause to believe that the recipient is an agent of a drug cartel, unless U.S. law enforcement personnel continuously monitor or control the firearm at all times.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Feb 11, 2016:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 11, 2016:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Sponsor introductory remarks on measure: CR S877-879)