

S 255

FAIR Act

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Crime and Law Enforcement

Introduced: Jan 26, 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 26, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/255>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Paul, Rand [R-KY]

Party: Republican • **State:** KY • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		Jan 27, 2015
Sen. Lee, Mike [R-UT]	R · UT		Jan 27, 2015
Sen. Crapo, Mike [R-ID]	R · ID		Feb 12, 2015
Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]	D · NM		Sep 10, 2015
Sen. Udall, Tom [D-NM]	D · NM		Oct 6, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jan 26, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 540	Identical bill	Feb 19, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.

Fifth Amendment Integrity Restoration Act of 2015 or the FAIR Act

This bill modifies general rules governing civil forfeiture proceedings to: (1) ensure that a person contesting a civil forfeiture has legal representation without regard to whether the property subject to forfeiture is being used by such person as a primary residence; (2) increase the federal government's burden of proof in civil forfeiture proceedings to clear and convincing evidence; (3) require the government, in addition to showing a substantial connection between the seized property and an offense, to establish by clear and convincing evidence that the owner of any interest in the seized property used the property with intent to facilitate the offense or knowingly consented or was willfully blind to the use of the property by another in connection with the offense; and (4) expand the proportionality criteria used by a court to determine whether a civil forfeiture was constitutionally excessive.

To remove incentives for carrying out civil forfeitures, the bill requires proceeds from the disposition of seized property to be deposited into the General Fund of the Treasury, rather than to Department of Justice accounts for law enforcement activities.

The bill adds a scienter requirement (i.e., a knowing violation) to the prohibition against structuring financial transactions to evade reporting requirements.

The bill requires: (1) a court to conduct a probable cause hearing to determine if there is a violation of the prohibition against structuring transactions to evade reporting requirements involving a monetary instrument and to return such instrument if probable cause is not established, and (2) the Attorney General to specify in reports to Congress and the public on forfeitures the amounts received from criminal and civil forfeitures.

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 26, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
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