

S 3127

Safeguard Tribal Objects of Patrimony Act of 2016

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Native Americans

Introduced: Jul 6, 2016

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs. (Jul 6, 2016)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/3127>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]

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

Cosponsors (8 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Flake, Jeff [R-AZ]	R · AZ		Jul 6, 2016
Sen. Udall, Tom [D-NM]	D · NM		Jul 6, 2016
Sen. McCain, John [R-AZ]	R · AZ		Jul 13, 2016
Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]	R · AK		Jul 13, 2016
Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]	D · MT		Jul 13, 2016
Sen. Daines, Steve [R-MT]	R · MT		Jul 14, 2016
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		Sep 12, 2016
Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]	D · CO		Sep 28, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Indian Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jul 6, 2016

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Native Americans

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 5854	Identical bill	Aug 11, 2016: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.

Safeguard Tribal Objects of Patrimony Act of 2016

This bill increases the maximum term of imprisonment from 5 years to 10 years for individuals convicted more than once of illegal trafficking in Native American human remains or cultural items.

This bill bans the export of illegally obtained Native American cultural objects and sets penalties for violations of this ban.

A person is immune from criminal prosecution under laws regarding Native American cultural objects if the person voluntarily repatriates to the appropriate tribe all the Native American cultural objects in the person's possession not later than two years after enactment of this bill. This immunity does not apply to a person under active investigation or prosecution relating to Native American cultural objects.

The Government Accountability Office (GAO) must report on the number of Native American cultural objects illegally trafficked and the extent to which the Department of Justice has prosecuted cases of trafficking. The GAO must recommend actions to eliminate such trafficking and to secure the repatriation of Native American cultural objects.

The Department of the Interior must facilitate the convening of a working group to contribute information to the GAO report and to advise on implementation of the GAO's recommendations.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 6, 2016:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 6, 2016:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.