

## HR 5854

Safeguard Tribal Objects of Patrimony Act of 2016

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Native Americans

**Introduced:** Jul 14, 2016

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations. (Aug 11, 2016)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/5854>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Lujan, Ben Ray [D-NM-3]

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

### Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Lujan Grisham, Michelle [D-NM-1]	D · NM		Jul 14, 2016

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Aug 11, 2016
Natural Resources Committee	House	Referred to	Aug 4, 2016

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Native Americans

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 S 3127	Identical bill	<b>Jul 6, 2016:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

## 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 convention of a working group to contribute information to the GAO report and to advise on implementation of the GAO's recommendations.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Aug 11, 2016:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.
- **Aug 4, 2016:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Indian, Insular and Alaska Native Affairs.
- **Jul 14, 2016:** Introduced in House
- **Jul 14, 2016:** Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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.