

HR 697

African Elephant Conservation and Legal Ivory Possession Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Animals

Introduced: Feb 3, 2015

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Federal Lands.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Federal Lands. (Mar 16, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/697>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Young, Don [R-AK-At Large]

Party: Republican • **State:** AK • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Peterson, Collin C. [D-MN-7]	D · MN		Feb 3, 2015
Rep. Smith, Lamar [R-TX-21]	R · TX		Apr 21, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Natural Resources Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 16, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Animals

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 2406	Related bill	Mar 1, 2016: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.
114 S 1769	Related bill	Jul 15, 2015: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

African Elephant Conservation and Legal Ivory Possession Act of 2015

This bill reauthorizes the African Elephant Conservation Act (AECA) through FY2020.

Ivory may be imported or exported under the AECA and the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (ESA) if: (1) the raw ivory or worked ivory is solely for a museum; (2) it was lawfully importable into the United States on February 24, 2014, regardless of when it was acquired; or (3) the worked ivory was previously lawfully possessed in the United States.

The Department of the Interior may station one U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service law enforcement officer in the primary U.S. diplomatic or consular post in each African country that has significant population of African elephants to assist local wildlife rangers in protecting the elephants and facilitating the apprehension of individuals who illegally kill them or assist in killing them.

Interior must certify a finding that a country is a significant transit or destination point for illegal ivory trade and report the certification to the President for the purposes of the Pelly Amendment to the Fishermen's Protective Act of 1967. The Pelly Amendment authorizes the President to embargo wildlife products when the Interior certifies that a country is engaging in trade or certain actions that diminishes the effectiveness of an international agreement for the conservation of endangered or threatened species.

This bill authorizes under the AECA and ESA: (1) the possession, sale, delivery, receipt, shipment, or transportation of African elephant ivory that has been lawfully imported or crafted in the United States, and (2) the importation of a sport-hunted African elephant trophy if the country in which the elephant was taken had elephants that are listed on Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) at the time the trophy was taken.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 16, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Federal Lands.
- **Feb 3, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 3, 2015:** Referred to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

LegiList

CONGRESS, MADE CLEAR.

Search Every Federal Bill, Law, and Vote

LegiList is the fastest way to research Congress. Track any bill from introduction to enactment, see how every legislator voted, follow committee activity, and read the full text of every bill — all in one place, always up to date.

legilist.com

Free Course: Learn How Congress Actually Works

LegiList Learn is a free, self-paced course that walks through the entire legislative process — from drafting a bill to a presidential signature. Seven modules, plain language, no politics. Earn a certificate when you finish.

legilist.com/learn

Developer API: Build Apps on Legislative Data

The LegiList API gives developers direct access to bills, votes, legislators, committees, and more. Start free with 1,000 requests per day — no credit card required. Upgrade to Pro when you need to scale.

legilist.com/api

Public data belongs to the public. — legilist.com