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Safeguard Tribal Objects of Patrimony Act of 2017

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Native Americans

Introduced: Jun 21, 2017

Current Status: Committee on Indian Affairs. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.

Latest Action: Committee on Indian Affairs. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably. (May 16, 2018)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/1400>

Sponsor

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

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

Cosponsors (13 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Daines, Steve [R-MT]	R · MT		Jun 21, 2017
Sen. Flake, Jeff [R-AZ]	R · AZ		Jun 21, 2017
Sen. McCain, John [R-AZ]	R · AZ		Jun 21, 2017
Sen. Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]	R · AK		Jun 21, 2017
Sen. Schatz, Brian [D-HI]	D · HI		Jun 21, 2017
Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]	D · MT		Jun 21, 2017
Sen. Udall, Tom [D-NM]	D · NM		Jun 21, 2017
Sen. Crapo, Mike [R-ID]	R · ID		Oct 24, 2017
Sen. Lankford, James [R-OK]	R · OK		Nov 1, 2017
Sen. Heitkamp, Heidi [D-ND]	D · ND		Nov 9, 2017
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Mar 21, 2018
Sen. Cortez Masto, Catherine [D-NV]	D · NV		May 14, 2018
Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]	D · MN		May 16, 2018

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Indian Affairs Committee	Senate	Markup By	May 16, 2018

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Native Americans

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 3211	Identical bill	Aug 3, 2017: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.

Summary (as of Jun 21, 2017)

Safeguard Tribal Objects of Patrimony Act of 2017

This bill amends the federal criminal code to double the maximum prison term (from 5 years to 10 years) for persons convicted of selling, purchasing, using for profit, or transporting for sale or profit the human remains of Native Americans or cultural items obtained in violation of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

The bill prohibits the export of Native American cultural items that were obtained in violation of the Act, Native American archaeological resources that were obtained in violation of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, or Native American objects of antiquity that were obtained in violation of the criminal code. Violators may be subject to fines, imprisonment, or both.

The Department of the Interior and the Department of State must each designate a liaison to facilitate and hold trainings and workshops on the voluntary return of human remains or cultural items.

Interior must refer individuals and organizations to Indian tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations to facilitate the voluntary return of human remains or cultural items.

In addition, Interior must convene a tribal working group consisting of representatives of tribes and Native Hawaiian organizations to provide advice on issues concerning the return of, and illegal trade in, human remains or cultural items.

Actions Timeline

- **May 16, 2018:** Committee on Indian Affairs. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.
- **Nov 8, 2017:** Committee on Indian Affairs. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 115-236.
- **Jun 21, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jun 21, 2017:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.