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HEAR Act

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Crime and Law Enforcement

Introduced: Jun 24, 2019

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Jun 24, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/1943>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]

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

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Jun 24, 2019
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Jun 24, 2019
Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA]	D · VA		Jun 24, 2019

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jun 24, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 5717	Related bill	Mar 10, 2020: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.
116 S 3254	Related bill	Feb 5, 2020: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.
116 HR 3454	Related bill	Jul 30, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.

Help Empower Americans to Respond Act of 2019 or the HEAR Act

This bill establishes a new criminal offense for the import, sale, manufacture, transfer, or possession of a firearm silencer or firearm muffler.

The bill does not prohibit certain conduct with respect to a firearm silencer or firearm muffler, including the following:

- importation, sale, manufacture, transfer, or possession related to certain law enforcement efforts, or authorized tests or experiments; and
- importation, sale, transfer, or possession related to securing nuclear materials.

In addition, the bill requires the Department of Justice to establish and implement a buy-back program to purchase firearm silencers and firearm mufflers. States and local governments may use Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program funds to compensate individuals who surrender firearm silencers and firearm mufflers under this buy-back program.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 24, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
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