

S 2174

Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains Act of 2019

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Crime and Law Enforcement

Introduced: Jul 18, 2019

Current Status: Became Public Law No: 116-277.

Latest Action: Became Public Law No: 116-277. (Dec 31, 2020)

Law: 116-277 (Enacted Dec 31, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/2174>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]

Party: Republican • **State:** TX • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Harris, Kamala D. [D-CA]	D · CA		Jul 18, 2019
Sen. Tillis, Thomas [R-NC]	R · NC		Jul 18, 2019
Sen. Udall, Tom [D-NM]	D · NM		Jul 18, 2019

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Discharged From	Nov 16, 2020

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 8772	Related bill	Nov 18, 2020: Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, 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.

Missing Persons and Unidentified Remains Act of 2019

This bill revises the authority for state grants to improve the reporting of unidentified and missing persons.

The bill authorizes grants to be used for additional activities. In particular, grants may be used to improve the transportation, processing, and identification of missing persons and unidentified remains, including with respect to migrants. Further, the bill expands eligible entities to include local governments, medical examiners' offices, certain accredited and publicly funded laboratories, and certain nonprofit organizations.

In addition, the bill expands the allowable uses of grant funds to include costs related to transportation, hiring, and procuring forensic equipment.

The bill requires any DNA reference sample that is received from a suspected biological family member and uploaded into the Combined DNA Index System to be used only for identifying missing persons and unidentified remains.

Next, the bill requires the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to purchase, deploy, and maintain no more than 170 rescue beacons along the southern border to mitigate migrant deaths.

The bill also requires the CBP, the Department of Justice, and the Government Accountability Office to submit specified reports to Congress.

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 31, 2020:** Signed by President.
- **Dec 31, 2020:** Became Public Law No: 116-277.
- **Dec 21, 2020:** Presented to President.
- **Dec 20, 2020:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Dec 18, 2020:** Resolving differences -- Senate actions: Senate agreed to the House amendments to S. 2174 by Unanimous Consent.
- **Dec 18, 2020:** Senate agreed to the House amendments to S. 2174 by Unanimous Consent. (consideration: CR S7828)
- **Dec 17, 2020:** Message on House action received in Senate and at desk: House amendments to Senate bill.
- **Dec 16, 2020:** Ms. Scanlon moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Dec 16, 2020:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H7217-7219)
- **Dec 16, 2020:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on S. 2174.
- **Dec 16, 2020:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote.(text: CR H7217-7218)
- **Dec 16, 2020:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H7217-7218)
- **Dec 16, 2020:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Dec 16, 2020:** The title of the measure was amended. Agreed to without objection.
- **Nov 17, 2020:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Nov 17, 2020:** Received in the House.
- **Nov 17, 2020:** Held at the desk.
- **Nov 16, 2020:** Senate Committee on the Judiciary discharged by Unanimous Consent.
- **Nov 16, 2020:** Measure laid before Senate by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR S6714-6715)
- **Nov 16, 2020:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.(text: CR S6714-6715)
- **Nov 16, 2020:** Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent. (text: CR S6714-6715)
- **Jul 18, 2019:** introduced in Senate
- **Jul 18, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.