

S 249

A bill to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to regain observer status for Taiwan in the World Health Organization, and for other purposes.

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: Jan 29, 2019

Current Status: Held at the desk.

Latest Action: Held at the desk. (May 12, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/249>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Inhofe, James M. [R-OK]

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

Cosponsors (23 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Boozman, John [R-AR]	R · AR		Jan 29, 2019
Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]	D · OH		Jan 29, 2019
Sen. Cassidy, Bill [R-LA]	R · LA		Jan 29, 2019
Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]	R · TX		Jan 29, 2019
Sen. Lankford, James [R-OK]	R · OK		Jan 29, 2019
Sen. Manchin, Joe, III [D-WV]	D · WV		Jan 29, 2019
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Jan 29, 2019
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Jan 29, 2019
Sen. Rounds, Mike [R-SD]	R · SD		Jan 29, 2019
Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL]	R · FL		Jan 29, 2019
Sen. Cruz, Ted [R-TX]	R · TX		Jan 30, 2019
Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]	D · MI		Feb 4, 2019
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Feb 5, 2019
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		May 20, 2019
Sen. McSally, Martha [R-AZ]	R · AZ		May 20, 2019
Sen. Scott, Rick [R-FL]	R · FL		May 21, 2019
Sen. Young, Todd [R-IN]	R · IN		May 21, 2019
Sen. Gardner, Cory [R-CO]	R · CO		May 22, 2019
Sen. Grassley, Chuck [R-IA]	R · IA		May 6, 2020
Sen. Hawley, Josh [R-MO]	R · MO		May 6, 2020
Sen. Moran, Jerry [R-KS]	R · KS		May 6, 2020
Sen. Loeffler, Kelly [R-GA]	R · GA		May 11, 2020
Sen. Toomey, Patrick [R-PA]	R · PA		May 13, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Relations Committee	Senate	Reported By	Jun 3, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 237	Related bill	Mar 14, 2019: Referred to the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and Nonproliferation.
116 HR 353	Identical bill	Jan 23, 2019: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Summary (as of May 11, 2020)

This bill directs the Department of State to include additional information in its annual reports concerning Taiwan's participation at the World Health Organization's World Health Assembly (WHA) as an observer. The report shall describe changes and improvements to the State Department's plan to support Taiwan's observer status at the WHA, following any meetings at which Taiwan did not participate under such status. (China has opposed Taiwan's participation, based on its position that Taiwan is part of China and not a separate country.)

The State Department shall regularly report to Congress on U.S. actions and plans to strengthen Taiwan's official and unofficial diplomatic relationships around the world.

Actions Timeline

- **May 12, 2020:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **May 12, 2020:** Received in the House.
- **May 12, 2020:** Held at the desk.
- **May 11, 2020:** Measure laid before Senate by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR S2345-2347)
- **May 11, 2020:** The committee substitute withdrawn by Unanimous Consent. (CR S2346)
- **May 11, 2020:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.
- **May 11, 2020:** Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent. (text of amendment in the nature of a substitute: CR S2346-2347)
- **Jun 3, 2019:** Committee on Foreign Relations. Reported by Senator Risch with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. Without written report.
- **Jun 3, 2019:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 100.
- **May 22, 2019:** Committee on Foreign Relations. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Jan 29, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 29, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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