

## S 5074

Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act

**Congress:** 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** International Affairs

**Introduced:** Dec 19, 2020

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. (Dec 19, 2020)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/5074>

### Sponsor

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

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

### Cosponsors

*No cosponsors are listed for this bill.*

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Relations Committee	Senate	Referred To	Dec 19, 2020

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

International Affairs

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 HR 6395	Related bill	<b>Jan 2, 2021:</b> Message on Senate action sent to the House.
116 HR 133	Related bill	<b>Dec 27, 2020:</b> Became Public Law No: 116-260.
116 S 4049	Related bill	<b>Aug 7, 2020:</b> Held at the desk.
116 S 712	Related bill	<b>Jun 18, 2020:</b> Held at the desk.

## **Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act**

This bill establishes various entities and procedures to address the wrongful detention of U.S. nationals abroad.

The President shall appoint a Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs. The envoy's duties shall include leading diplomatic engagement on U.S. hostage policy and coordinating diplomatic engagements in support of hostage recovery efforts.

The President shall establish an interagency Hostage Recovery Fusion Cell, which shall assess and track all hostage cases of U.S. nationals and coordinate agency efforts to safely recover hostages. The President shall also establish the Hostage Recovery Group, which shall make recommendations regarding hostage recovery options and coordinate the development and implementation of U.S. hostage recovery policies.

The President is authorized to impose visa- and property-blocking sanctions against any foreign person responsible for or complicit in the unlawful or wrongful detention of a U.S. national abroad.

The Department of State shall review cases where U.S. nationals are detained abroad and refer instances of wrongful or unlawful detention to the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs.

### **Actions Timeline**

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- **Dec 19, 2020:** Introduced in Senate
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