

S 712

Robert Levinson Hostage Recovery and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: Mar 7, 2019

Current Status: Held at the desk.

Latest Action: Held at the desk. (Jun 18, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/712>

Sponsor

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

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

Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Mar 7, 2019
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]	D · VT		Mar 7, 2019
Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL]	R · FL		Mar 7, 2019
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Dec 19, 2019

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Relations Committee	Senate	Reported By	Jun 3, 2020

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 S 5074	Related bill	Dec 19, 2020: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.
116 S 4049	Related bill	Aug 7, 2020: Held at the desk.
116 HR 1611	Identical bill	Mar 4, 2020: Ordered to be Reported by Voice Vote.

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This bill establishes various entities and procedures to address the wrongful detainment 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 detainment to the Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 18, 2020:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Jun 18, 2020:** Received in the House.
- **Jun 18, 2020:** Held at the desk.
- **Jun 15, 2020:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment and an amendment to the Title by Unanimous Consent.(consideration: CR S2977-2979; text of amendment in the nature of a substitute: CR S2977-2979)
- **Jun 15, 2020:** Passed Senate with an amendment and an amendment to the Title by Unanimous Consent. (consideration: CR S2977-2979; text of amendment in the nature of a substitute: CR S2977-2979)
- **Jun 3, 2020:** Committee on Foreign Relations. Reported by Senator Risch with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title. Without written report.
- **Jun 3, 2020:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 462.
- **May 21, 2020:** Committee on Foreign Relations. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Mar 7, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 7, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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