

S 4240

Justice for Victims of War Crimes Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Crime and Law Enforcement

Introduced: May 18, 2022

Current Status: Became Public Law No: 117-351.

Latest Action: Became Public Law No: 117-351. (Jan 5, 2023)

Law: 117-351 (Enacted Jan 5, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/4240>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Grassley, Chuck [R-IA]

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

Cosponsors (7 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		May 18, 2022
Sen. Graham, Lindsey [R-SC]	R · SC		May 18, 2022
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]	D · VT		May 18, 2022
Sen. Blunt, Roy [R-MO]	R · MO		Jul 13, 2022
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Sep 19, 2022
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Nov 14, 2022
Sen. Tillis, Thomas [R-NC]	R · NC		Nov 14, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Discharged From	Dec 21, 2022

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 7818	Identical bill	Nov 1, 2022: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.

Justice for Victims of War Crimes Act

This act broadens the scope of individuals who are subject to federal prosecution for war crime offenses.

Currently, the federal war crimes statute provides federal jurisdiction over war crime offenses committed anywhere (i.e., inside or outside the United States) if the victim or offender is a member of the Armed Forces or a U.S. national.

First, this act extends federal jurisdiction over war crime offenses committed anywhere to offenses where (1) the victim or offender is an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence; or (2) the offender is present in the United States, regardless of the nationality of the victim or the offender.

Second, the act expands federal jurisdiction over war crime offenses to include offenses that occur in whole or in part within the United States, regardless of whether the victim or offender is a member of the Armed Forces, a U.S. national, or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence.

The act allows an indictment for certain war crime offenses to be instituted any time, making the statute of limitations inapplicable. To undertake a prosecution for war crime offenses, the act requires written certification that prosecution is in the public interest and is necessary to secure substantial justice. The certification is not subject to judicial review.

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 5, 2023:** Signed by President.
- **Jan 5, 2023:** Became Public Law No: 117-351.
- **Dec 28, 2022:** Presented to President.
- **Dec 22, 2022:** Mr. Nadler moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill.
- **Dec 22, 2022:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H10012-10013)
- **Dec 22, 2022:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on S. 4240.
- **Dec 22, 2022:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by voice vote.(text: CR H10012)
- **Dec 22, 2022:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H10012)
- **Dec 22, 2022:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Dec 21, 2022:** Senate Committee on the Judiciary discharged by Unanimous Consent.
- **Dec 21, 2022:** Measure laid before Senate by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR S9713-9714)
- **Dec 21, 2022:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.(text of amendment in the nature of a substitute: CR S9713-9714)
- **Dec 21, 2022:** Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent. (text of amendment in the nature of a substitute: CR S9713-9714)
- **Dec 21, 2022:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Dec 21, 2022:** Received in the House.
- **Dec 21, 2022:** Held at the desk.
- **May 18, 2022:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 18, 2022:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.