

S 5230

Billy's Law

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Crime and Law Enforcement

Introduced: Dec 8, 2022

Current Status: Became Public Law No: 117-327.

Latest Action: Became Public Law No: 117-327. (Dec 27, 2022)

Law: 117-327 (Enacted Dec 27, 2022)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/5230>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT]

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

Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Dec 8, 2022
Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]	R · TX		Dec 8, 2022
Sen. Hoeven, John [R-ND]	R · ND		Dec 8, 2022
Sen. Tillis, Thomas [R-NC]	R · NC		Dec 8, 2022

Committee Activity

No committee referrals or activity are recorded for this bill.

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 9491	Identical bill	Dec 12, 2022: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.
117 S 5029	Related bill	Sep 29, 2022: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Billy's Law or the Help Find the Missing Act

This act provides statutory authority for the Department of Justice (DOJ) to maintain the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) consistent with its existing purpose and structure.

NamUs is a national information clearinghouse and resource center for cases involving missing persons and unidentified or unclaimed remains. NamUs is administered by the National Institute of Justice within DOJ.

The act also establishes new requirements.

First, it requires a law enforcement agency that submits a missing child report to the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) to also submit the missing child report to NamUs. The NCIC is a computerized index of criminal justice data and files for reports of missing and unidentified persons. Current law requires law enforcement agencies to submit missing child reports to the NCIC database but not to the NamUs databases.

Second, the act establishes requirements to facilitate data sharing between the NCIC database and the NamUs databases with respect to missing and unidentified persons.

Specifically, the act requires DOJ to give the National Institute of Justice access to the NCIC missing person and unidentified person records for the purpose of validating cases and reconciling data with NamUs.

Additionally, the act requires DOJ to assess the NCIC and NamUs systems and governing statutes, policies, and procedures and create a plan for NCIC to automatically transmit certain records to NamUs.

Third, the act requires DOJ to report to forensic medicine service providers and law enforcement agencies on best practices for collecting, reporting, and analyzing data and information on missing persons and unidentified human remains.

DOJ must also report to Congress biennially on the status of the NCIC database and the NamUs databases. The report must describe the process of information sharing between the NCIC database and NamUs databases.

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 27, 2022:** Signed by President.
- **Dec 27, 2022:** Became Public Law No: 117-327.
- **Dec 23, 2022:** Presented to President.
- **Dec 14, 2022:** Mr. Nadler moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill.
- **Dec 14, 2022:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H9828-9831)
- **Dec 14, 2022:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on S. 5230.
- **Dec 14, 2022:** At the conclusion of debate, the Yeas and Nays were demanded and ordered. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8, rule XX, the Chair announced that further proceedings on the motion would be postponed.
- **Dec 14, 2022:** Considered as unfinished business. (consideration: CR H9842)
- **Dec 14, 2022:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 422 - 4 (Roll no. 526).
- **Dec 14, 2022:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 422 - 4 (Roll no. 526). (text: CR H9828-9829)
- **Dec 14, 2022:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Dec 12, 2022:** Received in the House.
- **Dec 12, 2022:** Held at the desk.
- **Dec 9, 2022:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Dec 8, 2022:** Introduced in Senate
- **Dec 8, 2022:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Introduced in the Senate, read twice, considered, read the third time, and passed without amendment by Unanimous Consent.(consideration: CR S7080-7081; text: CR S7080-7081)
- **Dec 8, 2022:** Introduced in the Senate, read twice, considered, read the third time, and passed without amendment by Unanimous Consent. (consideration: CR S7080-7081; text: CR S7080-7081)