

## HR 5524

Protecting Data at the Border Act

**Congress:** 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Immigration

**Introduced:** Oct 8, 2021

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship. (Nov 1, 2022)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/5524>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Lieu, Ted [D-CA-33]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** CA • **Chamber:** House

### Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		Jan 11, 2022
Rep. Beyer, Donald S., Jr. [D-VA-8]	D · VA		Jan 11, 2022
Rep. DelBene, Suzan K. [D-WA-1]	D · WA		Jan 11, 2022
Rep. Espaillat, Adriano [D-NY-13]	D · NY		Jan 11, 2022

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security Committee	House	Referred to	Oct 9, 2021
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Nov 1, 2022
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Nov 1, 2022

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Immigration

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 S 2957	Identical bill	<b>Oct 7, 2021:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## Protecting Data at the Border Act

This bill limits government access to digital information at the border.

A governmental entity may not (1) access the digital contents of electronic equipment of a U.S. person at the border without a warrant, (2) deny such a person's entry into or exit from the United States because the person refused to provide access to digital content on electronic equipment or online account information, (3) delay such a person's entry or exit for more than four hours to determine whether the person will consent to providing access to online information, or (4) seize electronic equipment from a U.S. person without probable cause to believe that such equipment contains information relevant to a felony.

A governmental entity may access the contents of electronic equipment of a U.S. person without a warrant in an emergency. The entity must subsequently apply for a warrant within seven days, and if a warrant is not granted, the seized information must be destroyed and may not be disclosed.

A governmental entity may not make or retain a copy of information accessed under this bill without probable cause to believe that such information relates to a crime.

Information seized in violation of this bill (1) must be destroyed, (2) may not be disclosed, and (3) may not be received in evidence in any trial or government proceeding.

A governmental entity shall keep a record of each instance in which it obtains access to an individual's digital information at the border.

## Actions Timeline

---

- **Nov 1, 2022:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security.
- **Nov 1, 2022:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.
- **Oct 9, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Border Security, Facilitation, and Operations.
- **Oct 8, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Oct 8, 2021:** Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.