

S 805

Fighting Trade Cheats Act of 2023

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Foreign Trade and International Finance

Introduced: Mar 15, 2023

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (Mar 15, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/805>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Brown, Sherrod [D-OH]

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

Cosponsors (9 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Sen. Tillis, Thomas [R-NC] | R · NC | | Mar 15, 2023 |
| Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI] | D · WI | | May 1, 2023 |
| Sen. Britt, Katie Boyd [R-AL] | R · AL | | May 1, 2023 |
| Sen. Braun, Mike [R-IN] | R · IN | | Jun 1, 2023 |
| Sen. Vance, J. D. [R-OH] | R · OH | | Jun 1, 2023 |
| Sen. Fetterman, John [D-PA] | D · PA | | Sep 20, 2023 |
| Sen. Budd, Ted [R-NC] | R · NC | | Sep 29, 2023 |
| Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI] | D · MI | | Oct 24, 2023 |
| Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA] | D · PA | | Oct 31, 2023 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|-------------------|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Finance Committee | Senate | Referred To | Mar 15, 2023 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Foreign Trade and International Finance

Related Bills

| Bill | Relationship | Last Action |
|-------------|----------------|---|
| 118 HR 2667 | Identical bill | Dec 17, 2024: Referred to the Subcommittee on Trade. |

Fighting Trade Cheats Act of 2023

This bill increases penalties for, and establishes additional enforcement mechanisms related to, fraudulent and grossly negligent violations of U.S. customs laws.

Specifically, the bill increases the maximum civil penalty for a fraudulent violation to three times the domestic value of the merchandise. Further, the bill prohibits a person who commits a fraudulent violation from importing merchandise into the United States for a five-year period.

Additionally, the bill increases the maximum civil penalty for a grossly negligent violation to the lesser of (1) 3 times the domestic value of the merchandise; or (2) 10 times the lawful duties, taxes, and fees. It also prohibits a person who commits a grossly negligent violation from importing merchandise into the United States for a two-year period.

Further, the bill applies these importation bans to an affiliated person (e.g., a family member, partner, or employee) of the person who committed the fraudulent or grossly negligent violation.

The bill also establishes a private right of action for customs fraud or grossly negligent violations. In particular, the bill allows manufacturers, producers, wholesalers, labor unions, or trade associations to bring a civil action against a violator or any person that aids or abets a violator.

The bill prohibits any person (or an affiliated person) who commits a fraudulent or grossly negligent violation from participating in the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Importer of Record program, and further requires their importer of record numbers to be revoked.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 15, 2023:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 15, 2023:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

LegiList

CONGRESS, MADE CLEAR.

Search Every Federal Bill, Law, and Vote

LegiList is the fastest way to research Congress. Track any bill from introduction to enactment, see how every legislator voted, follow committee activity, and read the full text of every bill — all in one place, always up to date.

legilist.com

Free Course: Learn How Congress Actually Works

LegiList Learn is a free, self-paced course that walks through the entire legislative process — from drafting a bill to a presidential signature. Seven modules, plain language, no politics. Earn a certificate when you finish.

legilist.com/learn

Developer API: Build Apps on Legislative Data

The LegiList API gives developers direct access to bills, votes, legislators, committees, and more. Start free with 1,000 requests per day — no credit card required. Upgrade to Pro when you need to scale.

legilist.com/api

Public data belongs to the public. — legilist.com