

HR 4235

To clarify the Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act of 2016, to appropriately limit the application of defenses based on the passage of time and other non-merits defenses to claims under that Act.

Congress: 119 (2025–2027, Current)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Law

Introduced: Jun 27, 2025

Current Status: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

Latest Action: Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary. (Jun 27, 2025)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/4235>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Lee, Laurel M. [R-FL-15]

Party: Republican • **State:** FL • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (29 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
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Rep. Moskowitz, Jared [D-FL-23]	D · FL		Aug 29, 2025
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Rep. Cherfilus-McCormick, Sheila [D-FL-20]	D · FL		Sep 2, 2025
Rep. Diaz-Balart, Mario [R-FL-26]	R · FL		Sep 2, 2025
Rep. Stefanik, Elise M. [R-NY-21]	R · NY		Sep 2, 2025
Rep. Fitzpatrick, Brian K. [R-PA-1]	R · PA		Sep 16, 2025
Rep. Schakowsky, Janice D. [D-IL-9]	D · IL		Sep 16, 2025
Rep. Gimenez, Carlos A. [R-FL-28]	R · FL		Sep 30, 2025
Rep. Goldman, Daniel S. [D-NY-10]	D · NY		Sep 30, 2025
Rep. Gottheimer, Josh [D-NJ-5]	D · NJ		Sep 30, 2025
Rep. Kennedy, Timothy M. [D-NY-26]	D · NY		Sep 30, 2025
Rep. Ryan, Patrick [D-NY-18]	D · NY		Sep 30, 2025
Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]	D · TN		Nov 12, 2025
Rep. McBride, Sarah [D-DE-At Large]	D · DE		Nov 19, 2025
Rep. Goldman, Craig A. [R-TX-12]	R · TX		Dec 4, 2025
Rep. Schneider, Bradley Scott [D-IL-10]	D · IL		Dec 9, 2025
Rep. Kustoff, David [R-TN-8]	R · TN		Dec 17, 2025
Rep. Vindman, Eugene Simon [D-VA-7]	D · VA		Dec 18, 2025
Rep. Miller, Max L. [R-OH-7]	R · OH		Jan 21, 2026

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred To	Jun 27, 2025

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Law

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
119 S 1884	Related bill	Apr 13, 2026: Became Public Law No: 119-82.

This bill permanently extends and expands judicial authority under the Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act of 2016. The law allows and establishes procedures for civil claims and causes of action to recover artwork and other property lost between 1933 and 1945 because of Nazi persecution.

Among the changes, the bill removes the deadline for filing civil claims or causes of action. Currently, the filing deadline is December 31, 2026. (Claims must still be filed within six years of the claimant's discovery of the property in question.)

The bill permits courts to exercise jurisdiction over civil claims or causes of action against a foreign state without regard to the nationality or citizenship of the alleged victim. The art or property at issue must still have a connection to the foreign state's commercial activities in the United States.

Additionally, the bill authorizes nationwide service of process, which allows courts to exercise personal jurisdiction over defendants in any judicial district where they may be found, reside, have an agent, or transact business.

Finally, the bill limits the defenses that may be asserted against civil claims or causes of action, including by prohibiting

- defenses based on the passage of time, including equitable defenses such as laches (i.e., unreasonable delays);
and
- discretionary bases for dismissal that are unrelated to the merits of the claim, including international comity (i.e., deference to the laws of other countries).

These changes apply to pending and future civil claims or causes of action.

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