

Prevent Trafficking in Cultural Property Act: Section-by-Section Summary

H.R. 2285

Overview:

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SECTION 1: SHORT TITLE

Section 1 entitles the bill the “Prevent Trafficking in Cultural Property Act”.

SECTION 2: DEFINITIONS

Section 2 provides a definition for the term “cultural property.”

SECTION 3: STATEMENT OF POLICY

Section 3 establishes the policy of the United States to ensure that U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) enhance and unify efforts to: (1) interdict, detain, seize, and investigate cultural property illegally imported into the United States; (2) disrupt and dismantle organizations engaged in the illegal trade in cultural property, including stolen antiquities used to finance terrorism; and (3) support U.S. Attorneys in prosecuting persons engaged in illegal trade in cultural property.

Section 3 further establishes the policy of the United States to protect cultural property pursuant to its obligations under the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict; the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export, and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property; and the Convention on Cultural Property Implementation Act.

SECTION 4: ACTIVITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Section 4 requires CBP and ICE to: (1) designate principal coordinators to direct, manage, coordinate, and update policies and procedures regarding illegally imported cultural property; (2) update existing directives, regulations, rules, and memoranda of understanding, and, if necessary, to devise additional ones related to policies on the illegal importation of cultural property; and (3) ensure that relevant personnel receive sufficient training in cultural property laws, the identification of cultural property that is at risk of looting and trafficking, and methods of interdiction and investigative techniques.

SECTION 5: ROLE OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Section 5 requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to ensure that all components of DHS involved in cultural property protection are authorized to enter into agreements with the Smithsonian Institution to temporarily engage Smithsonian personnel to further cultural property protection activities.

SECTION 6: REPORT

Section 6 requires CBP and ICE to submit a joint report to the House Committees on Ways and Means and Homeland Security and the Senate Committees on Finance and Homeland Security and Government Affairs on the implementation of this Act and other actions to enhance and unify efforts to interdict, detain, seize, and investigate cultural property illegally imported into the United States.