

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 236

To provide for the exchange of information related to trade enforcement,  
and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 9, 2015

Mr. POE of Texas (for himself, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. FARENTHOLD, and Mr. CHABOT) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

---

## A BILL

To provide for the exchange of information related to trade  
enforcement, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Foreign Counterfeit  
5 Merchandise Prevention Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION RELATED TO TRADE**  
7 **ENFORCEMENT.**

8 Section 1905 of title 18, United States Code, is  
9 amended—

1           (1) by striking “Whoever” and inserting “(a)  
2       IN GENERAL.—Whoever”; and

3           (2) by adding at the end the following:

4       “(b) PROVISION OF INFORMATION RELATING TO  
5       MERCHANDISE PRESENTED TO CUSTOMS.—It shall not be  
6       a violation of this section for an officer or employee of  
7       U.S. Customs and Border Protection, upon detention and  
8       thereafter, to provide to the owner of a copyright or a reg-  
9       istered mark, or to any person who may be injured by a  
10      violation of section 1201 of title 17—

11           “(1) any information appearing on the mer-  
12      chandise, including its retail packaging,

13           “(2) a sample of the merchandise and its retail  
14      packaging, or

15           “(3) digital images of the merchandise and its  
16      retail packaging,

17      as it was presented to U.S. Customs and Border Protec-  
18      tion, without redaction, whether imported into or exported  
19      from the United States, or attempted to be exported from  
20      the United States, for purposes of determining whether  
21      the merchandise or its retail packaging infringes the copy-  
22      right, bears or consists of a counterfeit mark of the reg-  
23      istered mark, or is in violation of section 1201 of title 17,  
24      as the case may be.

1       “(c) PROVISION OF INFORMATION RELATING TO  
2 SEIZED MERCHANDISE.—It shall not be a violation of this  
3 section for an officer or employee of U.S. Customs and  
4 Border Protection, after seizing merchandise pursuant to  
5 a determination that the merchandise is in violation of sec-  
6 tion 1201 of title 17, to provide, to persons injured by  
7 the violation, information with respect to the merchandise,  
8 including, but not limited to, the following:

9           “(1) The date of importation.

10          “(2) The port of entry.

11          “(3) The description of the merchandise from  
12 the entry.

13          “(4) The quantity involved.

14          “(5) The country of origin of the merchandise.

15          “(6) The name and address of the foreign man-  
16 ufacturer.

17          “(7) The name and address of the exporter.

18          “(8) The name and address of the importer.

19          “(9) Photographic or digital images of the mer-  
20 chandise.

21       “(d) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section—

22           “(1) the term ‘registered mark’ has the mean-  
23 ing given that term in section 45 of the Lanham Act  
24 (15 U.S.C. 1127);



1 istered trademark recorded under subsection (a), if U.S.  
2 Customs and Border Protection detains the merchandise  
3 because the merchandise is suspected of bearing a coun-  
4 terfeit mark, then, upon such detention, the Secretary—

5           “(1) shall provide to the owner of the registered  
6 trademark any information on the critical merchan-  
7 dise and its packaging and labels, including, without  
8 redaction, photographs or digital images of the crit-  
9 ical merchandise, packaging, and labels; and

10           “(2) may, at any time, subject to any applicable  
11 bonding and return requirements, provide to the  
12 owner of the registered trademark samples of the  
13 critical merchandise, without redaction.

14           “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15           “(1) CRITICAL MERCHANDISE.—

16           “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘critical  
17 merchandise’ includes—

18           “(i) aircraft engines, appliances, pro-  
19 pellers, and spare parts;

20           “(ii) motor vehicle equipment;

21           “(iii) semiconductors; and

22           “(iv) any other article of manufacture  
23 that the Secretary determines could, if per-  
24 mitted entry into the United States in vio-  
25 lation of the laws of the United States pose

1 a danger to the health, safety, or welfare  
2 of consumers, or to the national security of  
3 the United States.

4 “(B) OTHER DEFINITIONS.—For purposes  
5 of subparagraph (A)—

6 “(i) the terms ‘aircraft engine’, ‘appli-  
7 ance’, ‘propeller’, and ‘spare part’ have the  
8 meanings given those terms in section  
9 40102(a) of title 49, United States Code;

10 “(ii) the term ‘motor vehicle equip-  
11 ment’ has the meaning given that term in  
12 section 30102(a) of title 49, United States  
13 Code; and

14 “(iii) the term ‘semiconductor’ means  
15 ‘semiconductor chip product’ as defined in  
16 section 901 of title 17, United States  
17 Code.

18 “(2) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means  
19 the Secretary of Homeland Security.

20 “(3) WITHOUT REDACTION.—The term ‘without  
21 redaction’ means, with respect to merchandise, with-  
22 out removing, revising, or otherwise obscuring any  
23 information, codes, marks, numbers, or any other  
24 markings that appear on the merchandise or its re-  
25 tail packaging.

1       “(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—This section applies  
2 only with respect to tangible goods presented to U.S. Cus-  
3 toms and Border Protection for importation into the  
4 United States.”.

5       (b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “Lanham  
6 Act” means the Act entitled “An Act to provide for the  
7 registration and protection of trademarks used in com-  
8 merce, to carry out the provisions of certain international  
9 conventions, and for other purposes”, approved July 5,  
10 1946 (15 U.S.C. 1051 et seq.).

11       (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
12 this section shall take effect upon the expiration of the  
13 60-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of  
14 this Act.

○