

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 11

To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide that unlawful interstate transportation of fireworks is specified unlawful activity for purposes of laundering of monetary instruments.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. CASE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee  
on ■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■■

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## A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide that unlawful interstate transportation of fireworks is specified unlawful activity for purposes of laundering of monetary instruments.

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 “Fireworks Trafficking  
5 and Money Laundering Prevention Act”.

6 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

7 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) Illegal fireworks trafficking is a multi-  
2           faceted criminal activity involving the transportation,  
3           distribution, and sale of explosive materials in viola-  
4           tion of Federal and State laws.

5           (2) Law enforcement actions across the United  
6           States have demonstrated that individuals engaged  
7           in illegal fireworks trafficking frequently participate  
8           in related financial crimes, including money laun-  
9           dering, and may accumulate substantial illicit pro-  
10          ceeds and assets subject to forfeiture.

11          (3) Investigations have revealed that illegal fire-  
12          works are often transported across state lines and  
13          sold at significant markups, creating highly profit-  
14          able black-market operations that can persist over  
15          many years.

16          (4) The use of illegal fireworks has resulted in  
17          numerous incidents causing serious injuries, mass  
18          casualty events, and fatalities, including some of the  
19          deadliest explosions and accidents in recent history.

20          (5) Fireworks-related injuries place a signifi-  
21          cant burden on emergency response systems and  
22          healthcare infrastructure, with thousands of individ-  
23          uals requiring emergency medical treatment each  
24          year.

1           (6) Illegal trafficking of fireworks poses sub-  
2           stantial risks to public safety, as such explosives are  
3           often manufactured, transported, stored, and used  
4           without proper safety standards, increasing the like-  
5           lihood of fires, explosions, injuries, and deaths.

6           (7) Illegal fireworks trafficking is frequently  
7           linked to broader criminal activity, including drug  
8           trafficking, financial crimes, and organized criminal  
9           enterprises, which may use fireworks distribution  
10          networks to generate revenue, launder money, and  
11          evade law enforcement oversight.

12          (8) The investigation and prosecution of illegal  
13          interstate fireworks trafficking are often constrained  
14          by the limited statutory penalties, which provide for  
15          a maximum term of imprisonment of one year,  
16          thereby reducing the prioritization of such offenses  
17          relative to more serious federal crimes, and pro-  
18          viding an insufficient disincentive to engage in illegal  
19          activity especially as compared to the large financial  
20          incentives to do so.

21          (9) Designating illegal interstate fireworks traf-  
22          ficking as a specified unlawful activity for purposes  
23          of laundering of monetary instruments will strength-  
24          en law enforcement efforts by authorizing the appli-  
25          cation of federal money laundering statutes to the

1 proceeds of illegal fireworks trafficking, thereby en-  
2 hancing investigative tools, disrupting criminal fi-  
3 nancial networks, and increasing the maximum term  
4 of imprisonment to up to twenty years.

5 **SEC. 3. UNLAWFUL INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION OF**  
6 **FIREWORKS TO BE CONSIDERED SPECIFIED**  
7 **UNLAWFUL ACTIVITY FOR PURPOSES OF**  
8 **LAUNDERING OF MONETARY INSTRUMENTS.**

9 Section 1956(c)(7)(D) of title 18, United States  
10 Code, is amended by inserting “section 836 (relating to  
11 interstate transportation of fireworks),” after “section  
12 831 (relating to prohibited transactions involving nuclear  
13 materials),”.