



THE RELIEF ACT



THE RETAILERS & ENTERTAINERS LACEY INFORMATION & ENFORCEMENT FAIRNESS ACT

In 2008, Congress passed amendments to the Lacey Act that intended to limit illegal logging. But the amendments ended up threatening musicians, antique dealers, instrument manufacturers, and anyone else whose products contain rare plant materials or wood. The 2008 law made it illegal to buy these products or travel with them.

The RELIEF Act guarantees the laws are implemented fairly and do not create unnecessary burdens on those who must comply with these regulations.

Innocent buyers of such products before 2008 should not be punished. Anyone thinking of buying such products today should have fair warning. Furthermore, punishment should fit the violation.

Overview of The RELIEF Act

- **Exempts** products—such as guitars or antiques—that were created before Congress passed the law on **May 22, 2008**.
- Calls on agencies to compile a database of the laws of all foreign countries that trade in plants **to help consumers and U.S. businesses comply**.
- Ensures no government enforcement or penalties against those who **unknowingly violated the Lacey Act**.
- **Streamlines** the documentation process for importers and exporters of plant and wood products.
- **Protects** musicians, retailers, manufacturers, and other small businesses while **protecting endangered species**.