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Senators Plan Bipartisan Revamp of National-Security Tariffs

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(Bloomberg) -- **A bipartisan group of senators introduced a bill to revamp a 1962 trade law that former President Donald Trump used to justify tariffs on billions of dollars worth of imports on national-security grounds.**

Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act allows for duties without a vote by Congress if imports are deemed a national-security threat. The Trump administration used the legislation to put tariffs on foreign steel and aluminum. **Lawmakers complained about the White House's actions, and the controversial duties have drawn legal challenges both in U.S. courts and at the World Trade Organization.**

The proposed Trade Security Act would reform section 232 "to better align the statute with its original intent as a trade-remedy tool for the president and Congress to respond to genuine threats to national security," seven senators including Republican Rob Portman of Ohio and Democrat Dianne Feinstein of California said in a statement Monday.

Congress would be able to annul the president's actions with a joint resolution of disapproval, the lawmakers said, and the measure would require consultation with Capitol Hill throughout the process.

The law would also see the process split, with the Department of Defense leading an investigative phase and the Department of Commerce handling the so-called remedy phase "to ensure that the statute is used for genuine national-security purposes," the senators said.

Other lawmakers backing the bill are Republicans Joni Ernst of Iowa, Deb Fischer of Nebraska, Roger Wicker of Mississippi and Todd Young of Indiana, as well as Democrat Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona.