

HR 1587

Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2004

Congress: 108 (2003–2005, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: Apr 3, 2003

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. (Jul 23, 2004)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/108th-congress/house-bill/1587>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Smith, Christopher H. [R-NJ-4]

Party: Republican • **State:** NJ • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (35 total)

| Cosponsor | Party / State | Role | Date Joined |
|---|----------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large] | D · DC | | Apr 3, 2003 |
| Rep. Ballenger, Cass [R-NC-10] | R · NC | | Apr 3, 2003 |
| Rep. Beauprez, Bob [R-CO-7] | R · CO | | Apr 3, 2003 |
| Rep. Bell, Chris [D-TX-25] | D · TX | | Apr 3, 2003 |
| Rep. Brown-Waite, Ginny [R-FL-5] | R · FL | | Apr 3, 2003 |
| Rep. Clay, Wm. Lacy [D-MO-1] | D · MO | | Apr 3, 2003 |
| Rep. Cox, Christopher [R-CA-48] | R · CA | | Apr 3, 2003 |
| Rep. Crowley, Joseph [D-NY-7] | D · NY | | Apr 3, 2003 |
| Rep. Davis, Tom [R-VA-11] | R · VA | | Apr 3, 2003 |
| Rep. English, Phil [R-PA-3] | R · PA | | Apr 3, 2003 |
| Rep. Gallegly, Elton [R-CA-24] | R · CA | | Apr 3, 2003 |
| Rep. Green, Gene [D-TX-29] | D · TX | | Apr 3, 2003 |
| Rep. Green, Mark [R-WI-8] | R · WI | | Apr 3, 2003 |
| Rep. Johnson, Sam [R-TX-3] | R · TX | | Apr 3, 2003 |
| Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-16] | D · CA | | Apr 3, 2003 |
| Rep. McNulty, Michael R. [D-NY-21] | D · NY | | Apr 3, 2003 |
| Rep. Moore, Dennis [D-KS-3] | D · KS | | Apr 3, 2003 |
| Rep. Moran, James P. [D-VA-8] | D · VA | | Apr 3, 2003 |
| Rep. Payne, Donald M. [D-NJ-10] | D · NJ | | Apr 3, 2003 |
| Rep. Pence, Mike [R-IN-6] | R · IN | | Apr 3, 2003 |
| Rep. Rohrabacher, Dana [R-CA-46] | R · CA | | Apr 3, 2003 |
| Rep. Ros-Lehtinen, Ileana [R-FL-18] | R · FL | | Apr 3, 2003 |
| Rep. Royce, Edward R. [R-CA-40] | R · CA | | Apr 3, 2003 |
| Rep. Sanchez, Loretta [D-CA-47] | D · CA | | Apr 3, 2003 |
| Rep. Souder, Mark E. [R-IN-3] | R · IN | | Apr 3, 2003 |
| Rep. Towns, Edolphus [D-NY-10] | D · NY | | Apr 3, 2003 |
| Rep. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD-8] | D · MD | | Apr 3, 2003 |
| Rep. Weldon, Curt [R-PA-7] | R · PA | | Apr 3, 2003 |
| Rep. Wolf, Frank R. [R-VA-10] | R · VA | | Apr 3, 2003 |
| Rep. Wynn, Albert Russell [D-MD-4] | D · MD | | Apr 3, 2003 |
| Rep. Andrews, Robert E. [D-NJ-1] | D · NJ | | Apr 29, 2003 |
| Rep. Honda, Michael M. [D-CA-15] | D · CA | | May 1, 2003 |
| Rep. Aderholt, Robert B. [R-AL-4] | R · AL | | Jun 10, 2003 |
| Rep. McCotter, Thaddeus G. [R-MI-11] | R · MI | | Jun 23, 2004 |
| Rep. Filner, Bob [D-CA-51] | D · CA | | Jul 6, 2004 |

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Financial Services Committee | House | Referred to | Apr 11, 2003 |
| Foreign Affairs Committee | House | Referred To | Apr 3, 2003 |
| Foreign Relations Committee | Senate | Referred To | Jul 23, 2004 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2004 - **Title I: Conditions on Increased Nonhumanitarian Assistance to the Government of Vietnam** - (Sec. 101) Prohibits FY 2005 U.S. nonhumanitarian assistance to the Government of Vietnam in excess of FY 2004 levels unless the President certifies to Congress that the Government of Vietnam: (1) has made substantial progress toward releasing all political and religious prisoners from imprisonment and other forms of detention; (2) has made substantial progress toward respecting the right to freedom of religion, and has made substantial progress toward returning estates and properties confiscated from the churches; (3) has made substantial progress toward allowing Vietnamese nationals access to U.S. refugee programs; and (4) has made substantial progress toward respecting the human rights of members of ethnic minority groups in the Central Highlands and elsewhere in Vietnam.

Prohibits U.S. post-FY 2005 nonhumanitarian assistance to the Government of Vietnam in excess of FY 2004 levels unless the President certifies to Congress that the Government of Vietnam: (1) has made substantial progress toward releasing all political and religious prisoners from imprisonment and other forms of detention; (2) has made substantial progress toward respecting the right to freedom of religion, and has made substantial progress toward returning estates and properties confiscated from the churches; (3) has made substantial progress toward allowing Vietnamese nationals access to U.S. refugee programs; (4) has made substantial progress toward respecting the human rights of members of ethnic minority groups in the Central Highlands and elsewhere in Vietnam; and (5) neither any official of the Government of Vietnam nor any of its agencies was complicit in a severe form of trafficking in persons, or the Government of Vietnam took all appropriate steps to end any such complicity and hold any such official, agency, or entity fully accountable for its conduct.

Authorizes the President to waive such requirements if increased U.S. nonhumanitarian assistance would promote the purposes of this Act or is otherwise in the U.S. national interest.

Title II: Assistance to Support Human Rights and Democracy in Vietnam - (Sec. 201) Authorizes the President to provide U.S. assistance, through appropriate nongovernmental organizations, for the support of individuals and organizations to promote human rights and nonviolent democratic change in Vietnam. Authorizes FY 2005 and 2006 appropriations.

Title III: United States Public Diplomacy - (Sec. 301) Declares it is U.S. policy: (1) to take necessary measures to overcome the jamming of Radio Free Asia by the Government of Vietnam; and (2) that educational and cultural exchange programs with Vietnam should promote progress toward freedom and democracy.

Title IV: Annual Report on Progress Toward Freedom and Democracy in Vietnam - (Sec. 401) Directs the Secretary of State to report annually to Congress on: (1) whether requirements in the President's certification have been met, or on the President's waiver of such requirements; (2) U.S. efforts to secure transmission sites for Radio Free Asia in countries close to Vietnam; (3) efforts to ensure that educational and cultural exchange programs with Vietnam promote certain participation policies; (4) U.S. steps to offer refugee resettlement to certain Vietnamese nationals; (5) actions of the Government of Vietnam reflecting compliance with or violation of human rights; (6) lists of persons believed to be persecuted by the Government of Vietnam for their pursuit of human rights; and (7) the development of the rule of law in Vietnam.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 23, 2004:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.
- **Jul 20, 2004:** Received in the Senate.
- **Jul 19, 2004:** Considered as unfinished business. (CR H5947-5948)
- **Jul 19, 2004:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 323 - 45 (Roll no. 391).(text: CR 7/14/2004 CR H5741-5743)
- **Jul 19, 2004:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 323 - 45 (Roll no. 391). (text: CR 7/14/2004 CR H5741-5743)
- **Jul 19, 2004:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Jul 14, 2004:** Mr. Smith (NJ) moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Jul 14, 2004:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H5741-5752)
- **Jul 14, 2004:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 1587.
- **Jul 14, 2004:** EXTENSION OF DEBATE - Mr. Smith (NJ) asked unanimous consent that debate on H.R. 1587 be extended by ten minutes to be equally divided and controlled. Agreed to without objection.
- **Jul 14, 2004:** At the conclusion of debate, the Yeas and Nays were demanded and ordered. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8, rule XX, the Chair announced that further proceedings on the motion would be postponed until July 15.
- **Jun 24, 2004:** Committee Agreed to Seek Consideration Under Suspension of the Rules, (Amended) by Unanimous Consent.
- **Apr 11, 2003:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, Trade, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Chairman.
- **Apr 3, 2003:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 3, 2003:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 3, 2003:** Referred to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.
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