

HR 854

Belarus Democracy Act of 2004

Congress: 108 (2003–2005, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: Feb 13, 2003

Current Status: Became Public Law No: 108-347.

Latest Action: Became Public Law No: 108-347. (Oct 20, 2004)

Law: 108-347 (Enacted Oct 20, 2004)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/108th-congress/house-bill/854>

Sponsor

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

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

Cosponsors (14 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Hoeffel, Joseph M. [D-PA-13]	D · PA		Feb 13, 2003
Rep. Hoyer, Steny H. [D-MD-5]	D · MD		Feb 13, 2003
Rep. Slaughter, Louise McIntosh [D-NY-28]	D · NY		Feb 13, 2003
Rep. Pitts, Joseph R. [R-PA-16]	R · PA		Mar 5, 2003
Rep. Gallegly, Elton [R-CA-24]	R · CA		Mar 19, 2003
Rep. Hastings, Alcee L. [D-FL-23]	D · FL		Mar 24, 2003
Rep. Crowley, Joseph [D-NY-7]	D · NY		Mar 31, 2003
Rep. Lantos, Tom [D-CA-12]	D · CA		Apr 1, 2003
Rep. Holt, Rush [D-NJ-12]	D · NJ		Apr 8, 2003
Rep. Pallone, Frank, Jr. [D-NJ-6]	D · NJ		May 7, 2003
Rep. Kaptur, Marcy [D-OH-9]	D · OH		Jun 18, 2003
Rep. LaTourette, Steven C. [R-OH-14]	R · OH		Jun 19, 2003
Rep. Rothman, Steven R. [D-NJ-9]	D · NJ		Sep 16, 2003
Rep. Shimkus, John [R-IL-19]	R · IL		Feb 26, 2004

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Financial Services Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 10, 2003
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Reported by	Apr 3, 2003
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 6, 2003

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
108 S 700	Related bill	Mar 25, 2004: Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S3173)

Summary (as of Oct 20, 2004)

(This measure has not been amended since it was passed by the House on October 4, 2004. The summary of that version is repeated here.)

Belarus Democracy Act of 2004 - (Sec. 3) Authorizes the President to support primarily indigenous Belarusian groups that are committed to the support of democratic processes in various activities that may include: (1) observation of elections and the promotion of free and fair electoral processes, including the development of democratic political parties; (2) development of independent media supported by nonstate-controlled printing facilities; (3) support of human rights; and (4) establishment of international exchanges and advanced professional training programs for leaders and members of democratic forces that foster the growth of civil society. Authorizes FY 2005 and 2006 appropriations for such activities.

(Sec. 4) Authorizes FY 2005 and 2006 appropriations for indigenous-language radio broadcasting to Belarus.

(Sec. 5) Expresses the sense of Congress that specified U.S. and multilateral loan and financial sanctions (with humanitarian, agricultural, or medical exceptions) should apply to Belarus until the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that the Government of Belarus has made significant progress in meeting the following conditions: (1) release of individuals who have been jailed for political or religious beliefs; (2) withdrawal of politically motivated legal charges against all opposition figures and independent journalists; (3) accounting of the disappearances of opposition leaders and journalists, including Victor Gonchar, Anatoly Krasovsky, Yuri Zakharenka, and Dmitry Zavadsky, and the prosecution of responsible individuals; (4) cessation of harassment and repression against the independent media, independent trade unions, nongovernmental organizations, religious organizations, and the political opposition; and (5) implementation of free and fair presidential and parliamentary elections.

(Sec. 6) Expresses the sense of Congress that the President should seek a multilateral strategy, particularly with the countries of Europe, to further the purposes of this Act.

(Sec. 7) Directs the President to report with respect to: (1) weapons-related activities by Belarus; and (2) the personal wealth of Aleksander Lukashenka and other senior leadership.

(Sec. 8) Declares congressional policy: (1) respecting the persecution and disappearance of journalists and political opponents in Belarus; and (2) commending the democratic opposition in Belarus.

(Sec. 9) Defines specified terms.

Actions Timeline

- **Oct 20, 2004:** Signed by President.
- **Oct 20, 2004:** Signed by President.
- **Oct 20, 2004:** Became Public Law No: 108-347.
- **Oct 20, 2004:** Became Public Law No: 108-347.
- **Oct 12, 2004:** Presented to President.
- **Oct 12, 2004:** Presented to President.
- **Oct 6, 2004:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate without amendment by Unanimous Consent.(consideration: CR 10/7/2004 S10612-10613)
- **Oct 6, 2004:** Passed Senate without amendment by Unanimous Consent. (consideration: CR 10/7/2004 S10612-10613)
- **Oct 6, 2004:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Oct 5, 2004:** Received in the Senate, read twice.
- **Oct 4, 2004:** Mrs. Davis, Jo Ann moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Oct 4, 2004:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H7989-7992)
- **Oct 4, 2004:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 854.
- **Oct 4, 2004:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote.(text: CR H7989-7990)
- **Oct 4, 2004:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H7989-7990)
- **Oct 4, 2004:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Feb 25, 2004:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Jun 24, 2003:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR E1338)
- **May 9, 2003:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR E920)
- **Apr 3, 2003:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Europe.
- **Apr 3, 2003:** Subcommittee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Apr 3, 2003:** Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee by Voice Vote.
- **Mar 10, 2003:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Domestic and International Monetary Policy, Trade, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Chairman.
- **Mar 6, 2003:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Claims.
- **Feb 13, 2003:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 13, 2003:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 13, 2003:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR E241-242)
- **Feb 13, 2003:** Referred to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and 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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