

HR 997

English Language Unity Act of 2003

Congress: 108 (2003–2005, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Government Operations and Politics

Introduced: Feb 27, 2003

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution. (May 5, 2003)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/108th-congress/house-bill/997>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. King, Steve [R-IA-5]

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

Cosponsors (108 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Bartlett, Roscoe G. [R-MD-6]	R · MD		Mar 6, 2003
Rep. Brown-Waite, Ginny [R-FL-5]	R · FL		Mar 6, 2003
Rep. Burton, Dan [R-IN-5]	R · IN		Mar 6, 2003
Rep. Goode, Virgil H., Jr. [R-VA-5]	R · VA		Mar 6, 2003
Rep. Hayes, Robin [R-NC-8]	R · NC		Mar 6, 2003
Rep. Hostettler, John N. [R-IN-8]	R · IN		Mar 6, 2003
Rep. Lipinski, William O. [D-IL-3]	D · IL		Mar 6, 2003
Rep. Pitts, Joseph R. [R-PA-16]	R · PA		Mar 6, 2003
Rep. Stearns, Cliff [R-FL-6]	R · FL		Mar 6, 2003
Rep. Taylor, Gene [D-MS-4]	D · MS		Mar 6, 2003
Rep. Wilson, Joe [R-SC-2]	R · SC		Mar 6, 2003
Rep. Chabot, Steve [R-OH-1]	R · OH		Mar 12, 2003
Rep. Davis, Jo Ann [R-VA-1]	R · VA		Mar 12, 2003
Rep. Deal, Nathan [R-GA-10]	R · GA		Mar 12, 2003
Rep. Istook, Ernest J., Jr. [R-OK-5]	R · OK		Mar 12, 2003
Rep. Jones, Walter B., Jr. [R-NC-3]	R · NC		Mar 12, 2003
Rep. Kline, John [R-MN-2]	R · MN		Mar 12, 2003
Rep. Myrick, Sue Wilkins [R-NC-9]	R · NC		Mar 12, 2003
Rep. Pence, Mike [R-IN-6]	R · IN		Mar 12, 2003
Rep. Shays, Christopher [R-CT-4]	R · CT		Mar 12, 2003
Rep. Tancredo, Thomas G. [R-CO-6]	R · CO		Mar 12, 2003
Rep. Baker, Richard H. [R-LA-6]	R · LA		Mar 25, 2003
Rep. Boozman, John [R-AR-3]	R · AR		Mar 25, 2003
Rep. Gingrey, Phil [R-GA-11]	R · GA		Mar 25, 2003
Rep. Gutknecht, Gil [R-MN-1]	R · MN		Mar 25, 2003
Rep. Norwood, Charles W. [R-GA-9]	R · GA		Mar 25, 2003
Rep. Brown, Henry E., Jr. [R-SC-1]	R · SC		Apr 1, 2003
Rep. Jenkins, William L. [R-TN-1]	R · TN		Apr 1, 2003
Rep. Barrett, J. Gresham [R-SC-3]	R · SC		Apr 7, 2003
Rep. Graves, Sam [R-MO-6]	R · MO		Apr 7, 2003
Rep. Paul, Ron [R-TX-14]	R · TX		Apr 7, 2003
Rep. Davis, Lincoln [D-TN-4]	D · TN		Apr 9, 2003
Rep. LaHood, Ray [R-IL-18]	R · IL		Apr 9, 2003
Rep. Schrock, Edward L. [R-VA-2]	R · VA		Apr 9, 2003
Rep. Souder, Mark E. [R-IN-3]	R · IN		Apr 9, 2003
Rep. Kelly, Sue W. [R-NY-19]	R · NY		Apr 11, 2003
Rep. Boehner, John A. [R-OH-8]	R · OH		May 1, 2003
Rep. Goodlatte, Bob [R-VA-6]	R · VA		May 1, 2003
Rep. Wamp, Zach [R-TN-3]	R · TN		May 1, 2003
Rep. Bilirakis, Michael [R-FL-9]	R · FL		May 6, 2003
Rep. Sessions, Pete [R-TX-32]	R · TX		May 6, 2003

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Hoekstra, Peter [R-MI-2]	R · MI		May 15, 2003
Rep. Petri, Thomas E. [R-WI-6]	R · WI		May 15, 2003
Rep. Ramstad, Jim [R-MN-3]	R · MN		May 19, 2003
Rep. Tiberi, Patrick J. [R-OH-12]	R · OH		May 19, 2003
Rep. Doolittle, John T. [R-CA-4]	R · CA		Jun 3, 2003
Rep. Hayworth, J. D. [R-AZ-5]	R · AZ		Jun 3, 2003
Rep. Kingston, Jack [R-GA-1]	R · GA		Jun 3, 2003
Rep. Miller, Gary G. [R-CA-42]	R · CA		Jun 3, 2003
Rep. Putnam, Adam H. [R-FL-12]	R · FL		Jun 3, 2003
Rep. Emerson, Jo Ann [R-MO-8]	R · MO		Jun 4, 2003
Rep. McHugh, John M. [R-NY-23]	R · NY		Jun 4, 2003
Rep. Forbes, J. Randy [R-VA-4]	R · VA		Jun 9, 2003
Rep. Ney, Robert W. [R-OH-18]	R · OH		Jun 9, 2003
Rep. Peterson, Collin C. [D-MN-7]	D · MN		Jun 9, 2003
Rep. Platts, Todd Russell [R-PA-19]	R · PA		Jun 9, 2003
Rep. Taylor, Charles H. [R-NC-11]	R · NC		Jun 9, 2003
Rep. Ballenger, Cass [R-NC-10]	R · NC		Jun 12, 2003
Rep. Bereuter, Doug [R-NE-1]	R · NE		Jun 12, 2003
Rep. Blackburn, Marsha [R-TN-7]	R · TN		Jun 12, 2003
Rep. Burr, Richard [R-NC-5]	R · NC		Jun 12, 2003
Rep. Collins, Mac [R-GA-8]	R · GA		Jun 12, 2003
Rep. Rehberg, Dennis R. [R-MT-At Large]	R · MT		Jun 12, 2003
Rep. Upton, Fred [R-MI-6]	R · MI		Jun 12, 2003
Rep. Capito, Shelley Moore [R-WV-2]	R · WV		Jun 16, 2003
Rep. Coble, Howard [R-NC-6]	R · NC		Jun 16, 2003
Rep. Hall, Ralph M. [D-TX-4]	D · TX		Jun 16, 2003
Rep. Hyde, Henry J. [R-IL-6]	R · IL		Jun 16, 2003
Rep. Isakson, Johnny [R-GA-6]	R · GA		Jun 16, 2003
Rep. Oxley, Michael G. [R-OH-4]	R · OH		Jun 16, 2003
Rep. Rahall, Nick J., II [D-WV-3]	D · WV		Jun 19, 2003
Rep. Bono, Mary [R-CA-45]	R · CA		Jun 24, 2003
Rep. DeMint, Jim [R-SC-4]	R · SC		Jun 24, 2003
Rep. Miller, Jeff [R-FL-1]	R · FL		Jun 26, 2003
Rep. Buyer, Steve [R-IN-4]	R · IN		Jul 9, 2003
Rep. Foley, Mark [R-FL-16]	R · FL		Jul 9, 2003
Rep. Johnson, Sam [R-TX-3]	R · TX		Jul 9, 2003
Rep. Bonner, Jo [R-AL-1]	R · AL		Jul 10, 2003
Rep. Duncan, John J., Jr. [R-TN-2]	R · TN		Jul 10, 2003
Rep. Calvert, Ken [R-CA-44]	R · CA		Jul 14, 2003
Rep. Cubin, Barbara [R-WY-At Large]	R · WY		Jul 14, 2003
Rep. Herger, Wally [R-CA-2]	R · CA		Jul 14, 2003
Rep. Lewis, Ron [R-KY-2]	R · KY		Jul 15, 2003

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Garrett, Scott [R-NJ-5]	R · NJ		Jul 18, 2003
Rep. Knollenberg, Joe [R-MI-9]	R · MI		Jul 18, 2003
Rep. Akin, W. Todd [R-MO-2]	R · MO		Jul 21, 2003
Rep. Pickering, Charles W. "Chip" [R-MS-3]	R · MS		Jul 21, 2003
Rep. Shimkus, John [R-IL-19]	R · IL		Jul 21, 2003
Rep. Whitfield, Ed [R-KY-1]	R · KY		Jul 21, 2003
Rep. Camp, Dave [R-MI-4]	R · MI		Jul 24, 2003
Rep. McCrery, Jim [R-LA-4]	R · LA		Jul 24, 2003
Rep. Miller, Candice S. [R-MI-10]	R · MI		Jul 24, 2003
Rep. Lucas, Frank D. [R-OK-3]	R · OK		Sep 3, 2003
Rep. Musgrave, Marilyn N. [R-CO-4]	R · CO		Sep 3, 2003
Rep. Hart, Melissa A. [R-PA-4]	R · PA		Sep 9, 2003
Rep. Quinn, Jack [R-NY-27]	R · NY		Sep 25, 2003
Rep. Crane, Philip M. [R-IL-8]	R · IL		Oct 16, 2003
Rep. Turner, Michael R. [R-OH-3]	R · OH		Oct 16, 2003
Rep. Aderholt, Robert B. [R-AL-4]	R · AL		Oct 30, 2003
Rep. Burns, Max [R-GA-12]	R · GA		Oct 30, 2003
Rep. Culberson, John Abney [R-TX-7]	R · TX		Oct 30, 2003
Rep. Rohrabacher, Dana [R-CA-46]	R · CA		Oct 30, 2003
Rep. Saxton, Jim [R-NJ-3]	R · NJ		Nov 20, 2003
Rep. Shuster, Bill [R-PA-9]	R · PA		Mar 9, 2004
Rep. Hefley, Joel [R-CO-5]	R · CO		May 11, 2004
Rep. Biggert, Judy [R-IL-13]	R · IL		Sep 15, 2004
Rep. Ryun, Jim [R-KS-2]	R · KS		Sep 21, 2004
Rep. Royce, Edward R. [R-CA-40]	R · CA		Oct 8, 2004

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Education and Workforce Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 24, 2003
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	May 5, 2003

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

English Language Unity Act of 2003 - Amends specified Federal law to declare English to be the official language of the United States.

Gives representatives of the Federal Government an affirmative obligation to preserve and enhance the role of English as the official language of the Federal Government, including encouraging greater opportunities for individuals to learn the English language.

Requires the official functions of the United States (meaning, in this case, the States and the District of Columbia) to be conducted in English. Sets forth exceptions to and rules of construction for such requirements.

Requires a uniform English language rule for U.S. naturalization, and all naturalization ceremonies to be conducted in English.

Amends specified Federal law to declare, as a general rule of construction, that English language requirements and workplace policies, whether in the public or private sector, shall be presumptively consistent with the Laws of the United States.

Requires the Department of Justice to issue for public notice and comment a proposed rule for uniform testing of English language ability of candidates for naturalization, based upon the principles that: (1) all citizens should be able to read and understand generally the English language text of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Laws of the United States; and (2) any exceptions to this standard should be limited to extraordinary circumstances, such as asylum.

Actions Timeline

- **May 5, 2003:** Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution.
- **Mar 24, 2003:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Education Reform.
- **Mar 13, 2003:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR E464-466)
- **Feb 27, 2003:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 27, 2003:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 27, 2003:** Referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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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