

S 3518

SPEECH Act

Congress: 111 (2009–2011, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Law

Introduced: Jun 22, 2010

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Jun 22, 2010)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/senate-bill/3518>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]

Party: Democratic • **State:** VT • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Lieberman, Joseph I. [ID-CT]	ID · CT		Jun 22, 2010
Sen. Schumer, Charles E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Jun 22, 2010
Sen. Sessions, Jeff [R-AL]	R · AL		Jun 22, 2010
Sen. Specter, Arlen [D-PA]	D · PA		Jun 22, 2010
Sen. Kaufman, Edward E. [D-DE]	D · DE		Jul 13, 2010

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jun 22, 2010

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Law

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
111 HR 2765	Related bill	Aug 10, 2010: Became Public Law No: 111-223.

Securing the Protection of our Enduring and Established Constitutional Heritage Act or SPEECH Act - Prohibits a domestic court from recognizing or enforcing a foreign judgment for defamation unless the domestic court determines that: (1) the defamation law applied in the foreign court's adjudication provided at least as much protection for freedom of speech and press in that case as would be provided by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and by the constitution and law of the state in which the domestic court is located; or (2) even if the defamation law applied in the foreign court's adjudication did not provide this much protection for freedom of speech and press, the party opposing recognition or enforcement of that foreign judgment would have been found liable for defamation by a domestic court applying the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and the constitution and law of the state in which the domestic court is located.

Prohibits a domestic court from recognizing or enforcing a foreign judgment for defamation against the provider of an interactive computer service unless the domestic court determines that the judgment would be consistent with provisions of the Communications Act of 1934 affording protection for private blocking and screening of offensive material, if the information that is the subject of the judgment had been provided in the United States.

Specifies circumstances for removal by a defendant to the appropriate U.S. district court, without regard to the amount in controversy, of any action brought in a state domestic court to enforce a foreign judgment for defamation.

Provides that any U.S. person, against whom a foreign judgment is entered on the basis of the content of any writing, utterance, or other speech by that person that has been published, may bring an action in district court for a declaration that the foreign judgment is repugnant to the Constitution or laws of the United States.

Expresses the sense of Congress that, for purposes of pleading a cause of action for a declaratory judgment, a foreign judgment for defamation or any similar offense shall constitute a case of actual controversy under the federal judicial code.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 22, 2010:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jun 22, 2010:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S5275-5276)
- **Jun 22, 2010:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.