

## HR 1856

International Religious Freedom Act Amendments of 2011

**Congress:** 112 (2011–2013, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** International Affairs

**Introduced:** May 11, 2011

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights. (Aug 2, 2011)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/112th-congress/house-bill/1856>

### Sponsor

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**Name:** Rep. Wolf, Frank R. [R-VA-10]

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

**Cosponsors** (42 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Smith, Christopher H. [R-NJ-4]	R · NJ		May 11, 2011
Rep. McCotter, Thaddeus G. [R-MI-11]	R · MI		May 23, 2011
Rep. Rohrabacher, Dana [R-CA-46]	R · CA		May 24, 2011
Rep. Gowdy, Trey [R-SC-4]	R · SC		May 25, 2011
Rep. Poe, Ted [R-TX-2]	R · TX		May 25, 2011
Rep. Forbes, J. Randy [R-VA-4]	R · VA		May 31, 2011
Rep. Fortenberry, Jeff [R-NE-1]	R · NE		Jun 1, 2011
Rep. Sanchez, Loretta [D-CA-47]	D · CA		Jun 1, 2011
Rep. Jackson, Jesse L., Jr. [D-IL-2]	D · IL		Jun 2, 2011
Rep. Eshoo, Anna G. [D-CA-14]	D · CA		Jun 15, 2011
Rep. Franks, Trent [R-AZ-2]	R · AZ		Jun 15, 2011
Rep. Honda, Michael M. [D-CA-15]	D · CA		Jun 15, 2011
Rep. Shuler, Heath [D-NC-11]	D · NC		Jun 15, 2011
Rep. Hartzler, Vicky [R-MO-4]	R · MO		Jun 20, 2011
Rep. Lankford, James [R-OK-5]	R · OK		Jun 20, 2011
Rep. Maloney, Carolyn B. [D-NY-14]	D · NY		Jun 21, 2011
Rep. Pitts, Joseph R. [R-PA-16]	R · PA		Jun 22, 2011
Rep. Towns, Edolphus [D-NY-10]	D · NY		Jun 23, 2011
Rep. Boren, Dan [D-OK-2]	D · OK		Jun 24, 2011
Rep. Cardoza, Dennis A. [D-CA-18]	D · CA		Jun 24, 2011
Rep. Lamborn, Doug [R-CO-5]	R · CO		Jun 24, 2011
Rep. Carson, Andre [D-IN-7]	D · IN		Jul 5, 2011
Rep. Fleming, John [R-LA-4]	R · LA		Jul 6, 2011
Rep. Aderholt, Robert B. [R-AL-4]	R · AL		Jul 7, 2011
Rep. Calvert, Ken [R-CA-44]	R · CA		Jul 7, 2011
Rep. McIntyre, Mike [D-NC-7]	D · NC		Jul 7, 2011
Rep. Duncan, Jeff [R-SC-3]	R · SC		Jul 11, 2011
Rep. Sires, Albio [D-NJ-13]	D · NJ		Jul 11, 2011
Rep. Barletta, Lou [R-PA-11]	R · PA		Jul 14, 2011
Rep. Huelskamp, Tim [R-KS-1]	R · KS		Jul 14, 2011
Rep. Coble, Howard [R-NC-6]	R · NC		Jul 21, 2011
Rep. Rogers, Mike D. [R-AL-3]	R · AL		Jul 21, 2011
Rep. Capuano, Michael E. [D-MA-8]	D · MA		Aug 9, 2011
Rep. Costa, Jim [D-CA-20]	D · CA		Aug 9, 2011
Rep. Kelly, Mike [R-PA-3]	R · PA		Aug 9, 2011
Rep. Pompeo, Mike [R-KS-4]	R · KS		Aug 9, 2011
Rep. Rivera, David [R-FL-25]	R · FL		Aug 9, 2011
Rep. Ross, Dennis A. [R-FL-12]	R · FL		Aug 9, 2011
Rep. Rigell, E. Scott [R-VA-2]	R · VA		Jan 24, 2012
Rep. Bachus, Spencer [R-AL-6]	R · AL		Jan 31, 2012
Rep. Blackburn, Marsha [R-TN-7]	R · TN		Mar 19, 2012

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Harris, Andy [R-MD-1]	R · MD		Mar 19, 2012

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Financial Services Committee	House	Referred to	Jul 29, 2011
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Aug 2, 2011
Oversight and Government Reform Committee	House	Referred to	May 13, 2011

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
112 HR 2867	Related bill	<b>Dec 23, 2011:</b> Became Public Law No: 112-75.

International Religious Freedom Act Amendments of 2011 - Amends the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (IRFA) to require the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom to: (1) integrate U.S. international religious freedom policies and engagement programs into U.S.-funded democracy and civil society programs and counterterrorism policies of U.S. agencies, including the Department of Defense (DOD), Department of State, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and Department of the Treasury; and (2) coordinate programs including such agencies and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

Recognizes that the absence of religious freedom is related to the persecution of religious minorities, religious conflict, violence, extremism, and terrorism (including terrorism reaching the United States). Extends U.S. policy to assisting nongovernmental organizations (currently, only governments) promoting religious freedom.

Authorizes the Ambassador, subject to the direction of the President and the Secretary of State, to represent the United States in contacts with nongovernmental organizations impacting religious freedom in their respective societies, regions, or internationally.

Specifies the minimum training requirements for foreign service officers, including chiefs of mission, under the Foreign Service Act of 1980.

Modifies: (1) procedures for appointing members to the Commission on International Religious Freedom, and (2) terms of office for such members. Establishes the Executive Committee of the Commission.

Extends the Commission's termination date to September 30, 2018.

Requires the President, within 120 days after designating a country of particular concern for religious freedom, to transmit to Congress: (1) any identification of the agency or instrumentality and specific officials responsible for religious freedom violations, and (2) an evaluation of the actions taken by the President.

Limits, to a 180-day period, the President's authority to waive specified actions with respect to a country in response to religious freedom violations.

Terminates any action by the President under the IRFA upon the President's certification that the foreign government has ceased (or taken steps to cease) particularly severe violations of religious freedom. (Currently, without such certification, an action terminates within two years unless reauthorized by law.)

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## **Actions Timeline**

- **Aug 2, 2011:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights.
- **Jul 29, 2011:** Referred to the Subcommittee on International Monetary Policy and Trade.
- **May 13, 2011:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Government Organization, Efficiency, and Financial Management .
- **May 11, 2011:** Introduced in House
- **May 11, 2011:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR E853-854)
- **May 11, 2011:** Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and Oversight and Government Reform, 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.