

HR 3605

Global Online Freedom Act of 2011

Congress: 112 (2011–2013, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: Dec 8, 2011

Current Status: Committee on Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Joint hearings held.

Latest Action: Committee on Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Joint hearings held. (Oct 19, 2012)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/112th-congress/house-bill/3605>

Sponsor

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

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

Cosponsors (6 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. McCotter, Thaddeus G. [R-MI-11]	R · MI		Dec 8, 2011
Rep. Wolf, Frank R. [R-VA-10]	R · VA		Dec 8, 2011
Rep. Berman, Howard L. [D-CA-28]	D · CA		May 8, 2012
Rep. Sherman, Brad [D-CA-27]	D · CA		May 8, 2012
Rep. Rohrabacher, Dana [R-CA-46]	R · CA		Jun 27, 2012
Rep. Stark, Fortney Pete [D-CA-13]	D · CA		Jul 13, 2012

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Financial Services Committee	House	Referred to	Jan 12, 2012
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Markup By	Mar 27, 2012
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred to	Dec 13, 2011

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Global Online Freedom Act of 2011 - Makes it U.S. policy to: (1) promote the freedom to seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through any media; (2) use all appropriate instruments of U.S. influence to support the free flow of information without interference or discrimination; and (3) deter U.S. businesses from cooperating with Internet-restricting countries in effecting online censorship.

Expresses the sense of Congress that: (1) the President should seek international agreements to protect Internet freedom; and (2) some U.S. businesses, in assisting foreign governments to restrict online access to U.S.-supported websites and government reports and to identify individual Internet users, are working contrary to U.S. foreign policy interests.

Amends the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to require assessments of electronic information freedom in each foreign country.

Directs the Secretary of State to annually designate Internet-restricting countries.

Amends the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require each Internet communications services company that operates in an Internet-restricting country to include in its annual report information relating to: (1) human rights due diligence, (2) policies pertaining to the collection of personally identifiable information, and (3) restrictions on Internet search engines or content hosting services.

Amends the Export Administration Act of 1979, as continued in effect under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, to direct the Secretary of Commerce to: (1) establish a list of goods and technology that would assist a foreign government in acquiring the capability to carry out censorship, surveillance, or any other related activity through means of telecommunications, including the Internet; and (2) prohibit the export of listed goods or technology to a government end user in any Internet-restricting country.

Actions Timeline

- **Oct 19, 2012:** Committee on Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe. Joint hearings held.
- **Mar 27, 2012:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Mar 27, 2012:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Unanimous Consent.
- **Jan 12, 2012:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Capital Markets and Government Sponsored Enterprises.
- **Dec 14, 2011:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR E2249-2250)
- **Dec 13, 2011:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Trade.
- **Dec 8, 2011:** Introduced in House
- **Dec 8, 2011:** Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, 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.