

S 3686

Workplace Religious Freedom Act of 2013

Congress: 112 (2011–2013, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Civil Rights and Liberties, Minority Issues

Introduced: Dec 17, 2012

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. (Dec 17, 2012)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/112th-congress/senate-bill/3686>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Kerry, John F. [D-MA]

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

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Dec 17, 2012

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Civil Rights and Liberties, Minority Issues

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Workplace Religious Freedom Act of 2013 - Amends provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 related to equal employment opportunities to include in the term "religion" all aspects of religious observance and practice, as well as belief, unless an employer demonstrates that the employer is unable, after initiating and engaging in an affirmative and bona fide effort, to reasonably accommodate to an employee's or prospective employee's religious observance or practice without undue hardship on the conduct of the employer's business. (Current law makes no reference to an employer's affirmative and bona fide effort.)

Provides that an employer's accommodation of an employee's practice of wearing religious clothing or a religious hairstyle, or of taking time off for a religious reason, imposes an undue hardship on the conduct of an employer's business in accommodating such practice only if the accommodation imposes a significant difficulty or expense on the conduct of the employer's business when considered in light of specified factors set forth in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, including: (1) the nature and cost of the accommodation needed, (2) the financial resources and size of the business, and (3) the type of operation of the business.

Requires an employer's accommodation, before it may be considered a reasonable accommodation, to remove the conflict between employment requirements and the employee's religious practice. Prohibits an accommodation from being a reasonable accommodation if it requires an employee to be segregated from customers or the general public.

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 17, 2012:** Introduced in Senate
- **Dec 17, 2012:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.