

HR 515

Belarus Democracy and Human Rights Act of 2011

Congress: 112 (2011–2013, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: Jan 26, 2011

Current Status: Became Public Law No: 112-82.

Latest Action: Became Public Law No: 112-82. (Jan 3, 2012)

Law: 112-82 (Enacted Jan 3, 2012)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/112th-congress/house-bill/515>

Sponsor

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

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

Cosponsors (12 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Burton, Dan [R-IN-5]	R · IN		Jan 26, 2011
Rep. Rohrabacher, Dana [R-CA-46]	R · CA		Jan 26, 2011
Rep. Wolf, Frank R. [R-VA-10]	R · VA		Jan 26, 2011
Rep. McCotter, Thaddeus G. [R-MI-11]	R · MI		Mar 2, 2011
Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]	D · TN		Mar 10, 2011
Rep. Doggett, Lloyd [D-TX-25]	D · TX		Mar 10, 2011
Rep. Hastings, Alcee L. [D-FL-23]	D · FL		Mar 10, 2011
Rep. McIntyre, Mike [D-NC-7]	D · NC		Mar 10, 2011
Rep. Marino, Tom [R-PA-10]	R · PA		Mar 17, 2011
Rep. Pompeo, Mike [R-KS-4]	R · KS		Apr 5, 2011
Rep. Pallone, Frank, Jr. [D-NJ-6]	D · NJ		May 26, 2011
Rep. Shimkus, John [R-IL-19]	R · IL		Jul 6, 2011

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Financial Services Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 23, 2011
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 1, 2011
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Reported by	Apr 13, 2011
Foreign Relations Committee	Senate	Discharged From	Dec 15, 2011
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 14, 2011

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of Jan 3, 2012)

(This measure has not been amended since it was passed by the Senate on December 14, 2011. The summary of that version is repeated here.)

Belarus Democracy and Human Rights Act of 2011 - Amends the Belarus Democracy Act of 2004 to express the sense of Congress that the President should continue to support radio, television, and Internet broadcasting to the people of Belarus in languages spoken in Belarus by Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, the Voice of America, European Radio for Belarus, and Belsat.

Includes among the criteria that the government of Belarus must meet in order to end U.S. sanctions: (1) release of individuals who were jailed based on political beliefs or expression in connection with the repression that attended the December 2010 presidential election; (2) prosecution of senior leadership of the government of Belarus responsible for violations of human rights violations, including human rights violations in connection with the presidential election; (3) withdrawal of politically motivated legal charges against opposition activists and independent journalists in connection with the presidential election; and (4) holding free and transparent presidential and parliamentary elections consistent with Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) standards and under OSCE supervision.

Authorizes the denial of U.S. entry to members of the security or law enforcement services who have participated in the crackdown on opposition leaders, journalists, and peaceful protesters or in the persecution of religious groups or human rights defenders.

Requires that the President's annual Belarus report to Congress include information about government of Belarus cooperation with any foreign government or organization related to Internet censorship or surveillance or the purchase or receipt of any technology or training for such purposes.

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 3, 2012:** Signed by President.
- **Jan 3, 2012:** Became Public Law No: 112-82.
- **Dec 23, 2011:** Presented to President.
- **Dec 20, 2011:** Considered as unfinished business. (consideration: CR H9999)
- **Dec 20, 2011:** Resolving differences -- House actions: On motion that the House suspend the rules and agree to the Senate amendments Agreed to by voice vote.(text as House agreed to Senate amendments: CR 12/19/2011 H9938)
- **Dec 20, 2011:** On motion that the House suspend the rules and agree to the Senate amendments Agreed to by voice vote. (text as House agreed to Senate amendments: CR 12/19/2011 H9938)
- **Dec 20, 2011:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Dec 19, 2011:** Ms. Ros-Lehtinen moved that the House suspend the rules and agree to the Senate amendments. (consideration: CR H9938-9940)
- **Dec 19, 2011:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on agreeing to the Senate amendments to H.R. 515.
- **Dec 19, 2011:** At the conclusion of debate, the chair put the question on the motion to suspend the rules. Ms. Ros-Lehtinen objected to the vote on the grounds that a quorum was not present. Further proceedings on the motion were postponed. The point of no quorum was withdrawn.
- **Dec 15, 2011:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Dec 14, 2011:** Senate Committee on Foreign Relations discharged by Unanimous Consent.
- **Dec 14, 2011:** Measure laid before Senate by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR S8611)
- **Dec 14, 2011:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with amendments by Voice Vote.(text: CR S8611)
- **Dec 14, 2011:** Passed Senate with amendments by Voice Vote. (text: CR S8611)
- **Jul 7, 2011:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.
- **Jul 6, 2011:** Ms. Ros-Lehtinen moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Jul 6, 2011:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H4632-4638)
- **Jul 6, 2011:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 515.
- **Jul 6, 2011:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote.(text: CR H4632-4634)
- **Jul 6, 2011:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H4632-4634)
- **Jul 6, 2011:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Apr 14, 2011:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Apr 13, 2011:** Subcommittee Hearings Held.
- **Apr 13, 2011:** Subcommittee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Apr 13, 2011:** Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee (Amended) by Voice Vote .
- **Mar 23, 2011:** Referred to the Subcommittee on International Monetary Policy and Trade.
- **Mar 1, 2011:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Europe and Eurasia.
- **Mar 1, 2011:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights.
- **Feb 14, 2011:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration Policy and Enforcement.
- **Jan 26, 2011:** Introduced in House
- **Jan 26, 2011:** Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, 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.