

HR 1897

Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2013

Congress: 113 (2013–2015, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: May 8, 2013

Current Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Latest Action: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. (Sep 9, 2013)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/1897>

Sponsor

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

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

Cosponsors (16 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-19]	D · CA		May 8, 2013
Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47]	D · CA		May 8, 2013
Rep. Royce, Edward R. [R-CA-39]	R · CA		May 8, 2013
Rep. Wolf, Frank R. [R-VA-10]	R · VA		May 8, 2013
Rep. Connolly, Gerald E. [D-VA-11]	D · VA		May 13, 2013
Rep. Meadows, Mark [R-NC-11]	R · NC		May 14, 2013
Rep. Poe, Ted [R-TX-2]	R · TX		May 22, 2013
Rep. Sherman, Brad [D-CA-30]	D · CA		Jun 6, 2013
Rep. Stockman, Steve [R-TX-36]	R · TX		Jun 10, 2013
Rep. McMorris Rodgers, Cathy [R-WA-5]	R · WA		Jun 25, 2013
Rep. Rohrabacher, Dana [R-CA-48]	R · CA		Jun 27, 2013
Rep. Ros-Lehtinen, Ileana [R-FL-27]	R · FL		Jun 27, 2013
Rep. Cicilline, David N. [D-RI-1]	D · RI		Jun 28, 2013
Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]	D · TX		Jun 28, 2013
Rep. Sanchez, Loretta [D-CA-46]	D · CA		Jun 28, 2013
Rep. Moran, James P. [D-VA-8]	D · VA		Jul 15, 2013

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Reported by	May 15, 2013
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Jun 7, 2013
Foreign Relations Committee	Senate	Referred To	Sep 9, 2013

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
113 S 1649	Related bill	Nov 5, 2013: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Summary (as of Aug 1, 2013)

Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2013 - Prohibits U.S. nonhumanitarian assistance to the government of Vietnam in excess of FY2012 amounts unless the President certifies to Congress that the government of Vietnam has made substantial progress respecting political, media, and religious freedoms, minority rights, access to U.S. refugee programs, return of confiscated religious estates and property, and actions to end trafficking in persons and the release of political prisoners.

Authorizes the President to waive such requirements if increased U.S. nonhumanitarian assistance would promote the purposes of this Act or is otherwise in the U.S. national interest. Allows the President to waive such authority with respect to: (1) all U.S. nonhumanitarian assistance to Vietnam; or (2) one or more programs, projects, or activities of such assistance.

Expresses the sense of Congress that: (1) the United States should take measures to overcome the jamming of Radio Free Asia by Vietnam and that the Broadcasting Board of Governors should not cut staffing, funding, or broadcast hours for the Vietnamese language services of the Voice of America and Radio Free Asia; (2) U.S.-Vietnam educational and cultural exchange programs should promote freedom and democracy in Vietnam; (3) the Secretary of State should oppose Vietnam's candidacy for membership on the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC); (4) Vietnam should be designated as a country of particular concern for religious freedom; and (5) Vietnam does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance.

Directs the President to report annually to Congress regarding Vietnam's compliance with the provisions of this Act.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 9, 2013:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.
- **Aug 1, 2013:** Considered as unfinished business. (consideration: CR H5295-5296)
- **Aug 1, 2013:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 405 - 3 (Roll no. 435). (text: CR 7/31/2013 H5249-5251)
- **Aug 1, 2013:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 405 - 3 (Roll no. 435). (text: CR 7/31/2013 H5249-5251)
- **Aug 1, 2013:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Jul 31, 2013:** Mr. Royce moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Jul 31, 2013:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H5249-5254)
- **Jul 31, 2013:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 1897.
- **Jul 31, 2013:** At the conclusion of debate, the Yeas and Nays were demanded and ordered. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8, rule XX, the Chair announced that further proceedings on the motion would be postponed.
- **Jun 27, 2013:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Jun 27, 2013:** Ordered to be Reported by Unanimous Consent.
- **Jun 7, 2013:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific.
- **Jun 6, 2013:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR E815-816)
- **May 15, 2013:** Subcommittee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **May 15, 2013:** Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee by Unanimous Consent .
- **May 8, 2013:** Introduced in House
- **May 8, 2013:** Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.
- **May 8, 2013:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations.