

## HR 1962

Free Flow of Information Act of 2013

**Congress:** 113 (2013–2015, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Law

**Introduced:** May 14, 2013

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations. (Jun 14, 2013)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/1962>

### Sponsor

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**Name:** Rep. Poe, Ted [R-TX-2]

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

**Cosponsors** (56 total)

<b>Cosponsor</b>	<b>Party / State</b>	<b>Role</b>	<b>Date Joined</b>
Rep. Conyers, John, Jr. [D-MI-13]	D · MI		May 15, 2013
Rep. Radel, Trey [R-FL-19]	R · FL		May 15, 2013
Rep. Chu, Judy [D-CA-27]	D · CA		May 20, 2013
Rep. Coble, Howard [R-NC-6]	R · NC		May 20, 2013
Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]	D · TN		May 20, 2013
Rep. Deutch, Theodore E. [D-FL-21]	D · FL		May 20, 2013
Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]	D · TX		May 20, 2013
Rep. Johnson, Henry C. "Hank," Jr. [D-GA-4]	D · GA		May 20, 2013
Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-19]	D · CA		May 20, 2013
Rep. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA-5]	D · MA		May 20, 2013
Rep. Nadler, Jerrold [D-NY-10]	D · NY		May 20, 2013
Rep. Pascrell, Bill, Jr. [D-NJ-9]	D · NJ		May 20, 2013
Rep. Richmond, Cedric L. [D-LA-2]	D · LA		May 20, 2013
Rep. Farenthold, Blake [R-TX-27]	R · TX		May 21, 2013
Rep. Jeffries, Hakeem S. [D-NY-8]	D · NY		May 21, 2013
Rep. Scott, Robert C. "Bobby" [D-VA-3]	D · VA		May 21, 2013
Rep. DelBene, Suzan K. [D-WA-1]	D · WA		May 22, 2013
Rep. Langevin, James R. [D-RI-2]	D · RI		May 22, 2013
Rep. Enyart, William L. [D-IL-12]	D · IL		Jun 3, 2013
Rep. Eshoo, Anna G. [D-CA-18]	D · CA		Jun 3, 2013
Rep. Marchant, Kenny [R-TX-24]	R · TX		Jun 3, 2013
Rep. McCollum, Betty [D-MN-4]	D · MN		Jun 3, 2013
Rep. Messer, Luke [R-IN-6]	R · IN		Jun 3, 2013
Rep. Stutzman, Marlin A. [R-IN-3]	R · IN		Jun 3, 2013
Rep. Bustos, Cheri [D-IL-17]	D · IL		Jun 4, 2013
Rep. Himes, James A. [D-CT-4]	D · CT		Jun 4, 2013
Rep. Jordan, Jim [R-OH-4]	R · OH		Jun 4, 2013
Rep. Nolan, Richard M. [D-MN-8]	D · MN		Jun 4, 2013
Rep. Yarmuth, John A. [D-KY-3]	D · KY		Jun 4, 2013
Rep. Chabot, Steve [R-OH-1]	R · OH		Jun 5, 2013
Rep. Costa, Jim [D-CA-16]	D · CA		Jun 5, 2013
Rep. Granger, Kay [R-TX-12]	R · TX		Jun 5, 2013
Rep. Wasserman Schultz, Debbie [D-FL-23]	D · FL		Jun 5, 2013
Rep. Maloney, Carolyn B. [D-NY-12]	D · NY		Jun 11, 2013
Rep. Welch, Peter [D-VT-At Large]	D · VT		Jun 11, 2013
Rep. Pocan, Mark [D-WI-2]	D · WI		Jun 13, 2013
Rep. Rokita, Todd [R-IN-4]	R · IN		Jun 13, 2013
Rep. Duffy, Sean P. [R-WI-7]	R · WI		Jun 20, 2013
Del. Christensen, Donna M. [D-VI-At Large]	D · VI		Jun 25, 2013
Rep. Bass, Karen [D-CA-37]	D · CA		Jun 25, 2013
Rep. Franks, Trent [R-AZ-8]	R · AZ		Jun 25, 2013

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Neugebauer, Randy [R-TX-19]	R · TX		Jul 8, 2013
Rep. Cartwright, Matt [D-PA-17]	D · PA		Jul 10, 2013
Rep. Labrador, Raul R. [R-ID-1]	R · ID		Jul 10, 2013
Rep. Davis, Rodney [R-IL-13]	R · IL		Jul 16, 2013
Rep. Daines, Steve [R-MT-At Large]	R · MT		Jul 26, 2013
Rep. Long, Billy [R-MO-7]	R · MO		Jul 26, 2013
Rep. Walz, Timothy J. [D-MN-1]	D · MN		Jul 31, 2013
Rep. Kilmer, Derek [D-WA-6]	D · WA		Aug 2, 2013
Rep. Quigley, Mike [D-IL-5]	D · IL		Sep 12, 2013
Rep. Salmon, Matt [R-AZ-5]	R · AZ		Sep 12, 2013
Rep. Heck, Denny [D-WA-10]	D · WA		Nov 12, 2013
Rep. Duncan, Jeff [R-SC-3]	R · SC		Jan 13, 2014
Rep. Esty, Elizabeth H. [D-CT-5]	D · CT		Feb 25, 2014
Rep. O'Rourke, Beto [D-TX-16]	D · TX		Feb 27, 2014
Rep. Cicilline, David N. [D-RI-1]	D · RI		Jul 14, 2014

## Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Jun 14, 2013
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Jun 14, 2013

## Subjects & Policy Tags

### Policy Area:

Law

## Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
113 S 987	Related bill	<b>Nov 6, 2013:</b> Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 238.

Free Flow of Information Act of 2013 - Prohibits a federal entity (an entity or employee of the judicial or executive branch or an administrative agency of the federal government), in any matter arising under federal law, from compelling a covered person to testify or produce any document related to information obtained or created as part of engaging in journalism unless a court makes specified determinations by a preponderance of the evidence, including determinations that: (1) alternative sources have been exhausted; (2) the testimony or document sought is critical to the investigation, prosecution, or defense of a crime or the successful completion of a noncriminal matter; (3) disclosure of an information source's identity is necessary to prevent an act of terrorism, harm to national security, imminent death, significant bodily harm or to identify a person who has disclosed a trade secret, individually identifiable health information, or certain nonpublic personal information; and (4) the public interest in compelling disclosure of the information or document involved outweighs the public interest in gathering or disseminating news or information.

Defines "covered person" as a person who, for financial gain or livelihood, is engaged in journalism, including a supervisor, employer, parent, subsidiary, or affiliate of such a person. Excludes from that definition foreign powers and their agents and certain designated foreign terrorist organizations.

Defines "journalism" as the gathering, preparing, collecting, photographing, recording, writing, editing, reporting, or publishing of news or information that concerns local, national, or international events or other matters of public interest for dissemination to the public.

Requires the content of compelled testimony or documents to be limited and narrowly tailored.

Prohibits this Act from being construed as applying to civil defamation, slander, or libel claims or defenses under state law.

Applies this Act to communications service providers with regard to testimony or any record, information, or other communication that relates to a business transaction between such providers and covered persons. Sets forth notice requirements. Permits a court to delay notice to a covered person upon determining that such notice would pose a substantial threat to the integrity of a criminal investigation.

### **Actions Timeline**

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- **Jun 14, 2013:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet.
- **Jun 14, 2013:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.
- **May 14, 2013:** Introduced in House
- **May 14, 2013:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

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