

S 2711

United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reform and Reauthorization Act of 2014

Congress: 113 (2013–2015, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: Jul 30, 2014

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. (text of measure as introduced: CR S5

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. (text of measure as introduced: CR S5144-5145) (Jul 30, 2014)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/senate-bill/2711>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]

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

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Relations Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jul 30, 2014

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
113 HR 4653	Related bill	Jul 9, 2014: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reform and Reauthorization Act of 2014 - Amends the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to reauthorize the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom through September 30, 2016.

Directs the Commission, during an initial election, to elect: (1) as Chair a Commissioner appointed by an elected official of the political party that is not the political party of the President, and (2) as Vice Chair a Commissioner appointed by an elected official of the political party of the President. Sets forth a process for future elections in which the positions of Chair and Vice Chair rotate annually between Commissioners appointed by elected officials of each political party.

Requires the Ambassador at Large to be notified in advance of all Commission meetings. Allows the Ambassador to attend all meetings as a nonvoting member.

Removes authority under which a Commission member may serve after the expiration of that member's term until a successor has taken office.

Requires approval by at least six of the nine members of the Commission before: (1) issuance of a statement on behalf of the Commission, or (2) submittal of policy recommendation reports to the President, the Secretary of State, and Congress. Permits each member to include individual or dissenting views.

Authorizes elected officials to appoint majority and minority staff directors for the Commission, as well as professional staff for the political parties. (Currently, the Commission appoints a single executive director and is served by nonpartisan staff.)

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 30, 2014:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 30, 2014:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S5143-5144)
- **Jul 30, 2014:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. (text of measure as introduced: CR S5144-5145)