

HR 5499

Consumer Review Freedom Act of 2014

Congress: 113 (2013–2015, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Commerce

Introduced: Sep 16, 2014

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade. (Sep 19, 2014)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/5499>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Swalwell, Eric [D-CA-15]

Party: Democratic • **State:** CA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Cárdenas, Tony [D-CA-29]	D · CA		Sep 16, 2014
Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]	D · TN		Sep 16, 2014
Rep. Sherman, Brad [D-CA-30]	D · CA		Sep 16, 2014
Rep. Eshoo, Anna G. [D-CA-18]	D · CA		Nov 20, 2014
Rep. Takano, Mark [D-CA-41]	D · CA		Nov 20, 2014

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Sep 19, 2014

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Commerce

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Consumer Review Freedom Act of 2014 - Declares a provision of a form contract to be void from the inception if it: (1) prohibits or restricts a person who is a party to the contract from engaging in written, verbal, or pictorial reviews, or other similar performance assessments or analyses of, the products, services, or conduct of a business that is a party to the contract; (2) imposes penalties or fees against such a person for engaging in such communications; or (3) assigns or provides an exclusive license, or requires such a person to assign or provide an exclusive license, to any of the person's intellectual property rights in such communications. (Thus, bars certain contract provisions that prohibit consumers from commenting publicly about businesses.)

Sets forth exceptions under which a provision shall not be considered void under this Act if the provision prohibits disclosure of certain: (1) trade secrets or commercial or financial information, (2) personnel and medical files, or (3) law enforcement records.

Provides for this Act to be inapplicable to contracts establishing an employer-employee or independent contractor relationship.

Prohibits businesses from offering or entering into form contracts containing a provision that is considered void under this Act. Treats violations by businesses as unfair or deceptive acts or practices under the Federal Trade Commission Act. Sets forth authority for the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and state attorneys general to enforce such violations.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 19, 2014:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade.
- **Sep 16, 2014:** Introduced in House
- **Sep 16, 2014:** Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.