

## HR 5878

Shahbaz Bhatti International Religious Freedom Act of 2014

**Congress:** 113 (2013–2015, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** International Affairs

**Introduced:** Dec 11, 2014

**Current Status:** Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Service

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and Oversight and Government Reform, 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. (Dec 11, 2014)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/5878>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Pitts, Joseph R. [R-PA-16]

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

### Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Eshoo, Anna G. [D-CA-18]	D · CA		Dec 11, 2014

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Financial Services Committee	House	Referred To	Dec 11, 2014
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Referred To	Dec 11, 2014
Oversight and Government Reform Committee	House	Referred To	Dec 11, 2014

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

International Affairs

### Related Bills

*No related bills are listed.*

Shahbaz Bhatti International Religious Freedom Act of 2014 - Amends the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to include violations of religious freedom by non-state actors in the annual Department of State report to Congress on international religious freedom.

Requires the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to hold hearings on specified Department and U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom reports concerning the status of religious freedom.

Amends the Foreign Service Act of 1980 to require Foreign Service officers to receive training about the religious demography, status of religious freedom, and U.S. strategies for advancing religious freedom in their country of posting.

Directs the Secretary of State to: (1) transmit to specified congressional committees certain lists of persons imprisoned, detained, or placed under house arrest; and (2) report to Congress on the best uses of foreign assistance to promote the goals of religious freedom and religious engagement.

Directs the Comptroller General to report to Congress after the date on which the President designates countries as a country of particular concern for religious freedom on the lack of the President's designation of Pakistan and any other countries recommended for such designation by the Commission.

Directs the President to take specified actions in response to violations of religious freedom by non-state actors.

Authorizes certain funds for democracy programs to be used to implement innovative uses of the Internet and other electronic methods to support freedom of religion or belief abroad.

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## **Actions Timeline**

- **Dec 11, 2014:** Introduced in House
- **Dec 11, 2014:** Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and Oversight and Government Reform, 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.