

S 653

Near East and South Central Asia Religious Freedom Act of 2014

Congress: 113 (2013–2015, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: Mar 22, 2013

Current Status: Became Public Law No: 113-161.

Latest Action: Became Public Law No: 113-161. (Aug 8, 2014)

Law: 113-161 (Enacted Aug 8, 2014)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/senate-bill/653>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Blunt, Roy [R-MO]

Party: Republican • **State:** MO • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (22 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Mar 22, 2013
Sen. Levin, Carl [D-MI]	D · MI		Mar 22, 2013
Sen. Boozman, John [R-AR]	R · AR		May 6, 2013
Sen. Stabenow, Debbie [D-MI]	D · MI		May 6, 2013
Sen. Johanns, Mike [R-NE]	R · NE		May 14, 2013
Sen. Coats, Daniel [R-IN]	R · IN		May 15, 2013
Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL]	R · FL		May 22, 2013
Sen. Scott, Tim [R-SC]	R · SC		Jun 6, 2013
Sen. Crapo, Mike [R-ID]	R · ID		Jul 25, 2013
Sen. Collins, Susan M. [R-ME]	R · ME		Aug 1, 2013
Sen. Moran, Jerry [R-KS]	R · KS		Sep 9, 2013
Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]	R · MS		Sep 12, 2013
Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]	R · TX		Sep 27, 2013
Sen. Sessions, Jeff [R-AL]	R · AL		Sep 27, 2013
Sen. Roberts, Pat [R-KS]	R · KS		Oct 1, 2013
Sen. Pryor, Mark L. [D-AR]	D · AR		Oct 15, 2013
Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA]	D · VA		Oct 29, 2013
Sen. Enzi, Michael B. [R-WY]	R · WY		Nov 6, 2013
Sen. Kirk, Mark Steven [R-IL]	R · IL		Nov 6, 2013
Sen. Toomey, Patrick [R-PA]	R · PA		Dec 19, 2013
Sen. Cruz, Ted [R-TX]	R · TX		Jan 7, 2014
Sen. Portman, Rob [R-OH]	R · OH		Jan 7, 2014

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Relations Committee	Senate	Reported By	Dec 18, 2013

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
113 HR 301	Related bill	Sep 19, 2013: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Summary (as of Aug 8, 2014)

(This measure has not been amended since it was passed by the Senate on July 10, 2014. The summary of that version is repeated here.)

Near East and South Central Asia Religious Freedom Act of 2014 - (Sec. 2) Authorizes the President to appoint a Special Envoy to Promote Religious Freedom of Religious Minorities in the Near East and South Central Asia within the Department of State. Requires the Special Envoy to have the rank of ambassador.

(Sec. 3) Requires the Special Envoy to: (1) promote the right of religious freedom of religious minorities in the countries of the Near East and South Central Asia, denounce the violation of such right, and recommend appropriate U.S government responses to such violations; (2) monitor and combat acts of religious intolerance and incitement targeted against such religious minorities; (3) ensure that the needs of such religious minority communities are addressed, including economic and security needs directly tied to religious-based discrimination and persecution; (4) work with foreign governments of such countries to address inherently discriminatory laws; and (5) coordinate and assist in the preparation of specified reports required by the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998.

(Sec. 4) Authorizes the Special Envoy, subject to direction by the President and the Secretary of State, to represent the United States in matters and cases relevant to religious freedom in: (1) contacts with foreign governments, intergovernmental organizations, and specialized agencies of the United Nations (U.N.), the Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe, and other international organizations; and (2) multilateral conferences and meetings relevant to religious freedom.

(Sec. 5) Provides for the Special Envoy to consult, as appropriate, with domestic and international nongovernmental organizations and multilateral organizations and institutions.

(Sec. 6) Terminates this Act on October 1, 2019.

(Sec. 7) Authorizes the Secretary of State to provide specified amounts to the Special Envoy from amounts appropriated for FY2015-FY2019.

Actions Timeline

- **Aug 8, 2014:** Signed by President.
- **Aug 8, 2014:** Became Public Law No: 113-161.
- **Jul 29, 2014:** Presented to President.
- **Jul 25, 2014:** Mr. Smith (NJ) asked unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table and consider.
- **Jul 25, 2014:** Considered by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR H6837-6838)
- **Jul 25, 2014:** Passed/agreed to in House: On passage Passed without objection.(text: CR H6837-6838)
- **Jul 25, 2014:** On passage Passed without objection. (text: CR H6837-6838)
- **Jul 25, 2014:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Jul 14, 2014:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Jul 14, 2014:** Received in the House.
- **Jul 14, 2014:** Held at the desk.
- **Jul 10, 2014:** Measure laid before Senate by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR S4435-4436)
- **Jul 10, 2014:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with amendments by Voice Vote.(text: CR S4435-4436)
- **Jul 10, 2014:** Passed Senate with amendments by Voice Vote. (text: CR S4435-4436)
- **Dec 18, 2013:** Committee on Foreign Relations. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.
- **Dec 18, 2013:** Committee on Foreign Relations. Reported by Senator Menendez without amendment. Without written report.
- **Dec 18, 2013:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 268.
- **Mar 22, 2013:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 22, 2013:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.