

## S 1267

Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Foreign Trade and International Finance

**Introduced:** May 11, 2015

**Current Status:** By Senator Hatch from Committee on Finance filed written report. Report No. 114-43.

**Latest Action:** By Senator Hatch from Committee on Finance filed written report. Report No. 114-43. (May 12, 2015)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/1267>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Hatch, Orrin G. [R-UT]

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

### Cosponsors

*No cosponsors are listed for this bill.*

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Reported Original Measure	May 11, 2015

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Foreign Trade and International Finance

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 1295	Related bill	<b>Jun 29, 2015:</b> Became Public Law No: 114-27.
114 HR 1891	Related bill	<b>May 1, 2015:</b> Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 70.
114 S 1009	Related bill	<b>Apr 20, 2015:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.
114 S 952	Related bill	<b>Apr 15, 2015:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance.

## **Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015**

### *AGOA Extension and Enhancement Act of 2015*

This bill amends the Trade Act of 1974 and the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) to extend through FY2025 the duty-free treatment of the products of beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries under those Acts.

The extended period also applies to:

- the preferential treatment of apparel articles wholly assembled, or components knit-to-shape and wholly assembled, in one or more beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries from yarns originating in the United States or one or more beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries or former beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries, or both; and
- the third-country fabric program granting duty-free treatment of apparel articles wholly assembled, or knit-to-shape and wholly assembled, or both, in one or more lesser developed beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries, regardless of the country of origin of the fabric or the yarn used to make such articles.

This bill amends the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) to revise rules of origin for duty-free treatment of articles of beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries.

The President must not terminate the designation of a country as a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country unless, at least 60 days before termination, the President notifies Congress and the country of that intention.

The President, instead of terminating the designation, may withdraw, suspend, or limit the duty-free treatment for any article that is the growth, product, or manufacture of a beneficiary sub-Saharan African country if that would be more effective in promoting the country's compliance with certain requirements, including a market-based economy and the rule of law, the protection of human rights and internationally-recognized worker rights, elimination of trade barriers to the United States, and non-engagement in activities that undermine U.S. national security or foreign policy interests or support acts of international terrorism.

The President shall:

- publish annually in the Federal Register a notice of review and request for public comments on whether beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries are meeting the eligibility requirements for preferential treatment under AGOA and the Trade Act of 1974, and
- establish a process for interested persons to file a petition with the United States Trade Representative regarding the compliance of sub-Saharan African countries with such requirements.

To be eligible for preferential treatment a sub-Saharan African country must make progress toward establishing a market-based economy that protects the private property rights of women as well as those of men.

It is the sense of Congress that beneficiary sub-Saharan African countries should develop strategies biennially for more effective utilization of AGOA trade benefits.

It is U.S. policy to continue to seek to deepen and expand trade and investment ties between sub-Saharan African and the United States through specified actions.

This bill amends the AGOA Acceleration Act of 2004 to direct the President, now through the Secretary of Agriculture, to identify any eligible sub-Saharan African country (currently only 10) having the greatest potential to increase marketable exports of agricultural products to the United States and the greatest need for agricultural technical assistance, particularly with respect to developing food safety standards. The President must also assign 30 (currently 20) fulltime personnel to provide this assistance to these countries to ensure that their exports of agricultural products, particularly from businesses and sectors that engage women farmers and entrepreneurs, meet U.S. requirements.

This bill amends the Trade Act of 1974 to extend duty-free treatment under the GSP through December 31, 2017.

The President may designate certain cotton articles as eligible for duty-free treatment only for least-developed beneficiary developing countries.

The competitive need limitation and waiver requirements under the GSP shall apply to certain import-sensitive articles exported (directly or indirectly) from beneficiary developing countries to the United States during calendar 2014.

The President may now designate handbags, luggage, and flat goods as eligible articles from all beneficiary developing countries.

This bill amends the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act to extend through December 19, 2025, the duty-free entry of apparel articles, including woven articles and certain knit articles, assembled in Haiti and imported from Haiti or the Dominican Republic to the United States.

The special duty-free rules for Haiti shall now extend through September 30, 2025.

This bill amends the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to provide for the duty-free treatment of certain recreational performance outerwear as well as of certain specialized athletic footwear.

The President shall report to Congress on the contribution of U.S. trade preference programs to reducing poverty and eliminating hunger.

This bill amends the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1958 to extend customs user fees for certain customs services performed through July 7, 2025.

The required installment of corporate estimated tax payments for a corporation with assets of at least \$1 billion which is otherwise due in the third quarter of 2020 shall be increased by 5.25%.

This bill amends the Internal Revenue Code to eliminate the requirement that every person who makes or receives interest payments aggregating \$10 or more report it on their income tax returns, and so requires the report of any interest paid or received, no matter how small.

Every person holding a reportable deposit (non-interest bearing deposit) during any calendar year must make a tax return about it.

## Actions Timeline

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- **May 12, 2015:** By Senator Hatch from Committee on Finance filed written report. Report No. 114-43.
- **May 11, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 11, 2015:** Committee on Finance. Original measure reported to Senate by Senator Hatch. Without written report.
- **May 11, 2015:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 74.