HR 1323

Shahbaz Bhatti International Religious Freedom Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)
Chamber: House
Policy Area: International Affairs
Introduced: Mar 4, 2015
Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organiz
Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations. (Mar 20, 2015)
Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/1323

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Pitts, Joseph R. [R-PA-16]
Party: Republican • **State:** PA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (17 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Bilirakis, Gus M. [R-FL-12]	R · FL		Mar 4, 2015
Rep. Chabot, Steve [R-OH-1]	R · OH		Mar 4, 2015
Rep. DeLauro, Rosa L. [D-CT-3]	D · CT		Mar 4, 2015
Rep. Ellison, Keith [D-MN-5]	D · MN		Mar 4, 2015
Rep. Eshoo, Anna G. [D-CA-18]	D · CA		Mar 4, 2015
Rep. Johnson, Henry C. "Hank," Jr. [D-GA-4]	D · GA		Mar 4, 2015
Rep. Poe, Ted [R-TX-2]	R · TX		Mar 4, 2015
Rep. Salmon, Matt [R-AZ-5]	R · AZ		Mar 4, 2015
Rep. Smith, Christopher H. [R-NJ-4]	R · NJ		Mar 4, 2015
Rep. Trott, David A. [R-MI-11]	R · MI		Mar 16, 2015
Rep. Hartzler, Vicky [R-MO-4]	R · MO		Mar 23, 2015
Rep. Aderholt, Robert B. [R-AL-4]	R · AL		Mar 25, 2015
Rep. Franks, Trent [R-AZ-8]	R · AZ		Mar 26, 2015
Rep. Duncan, Jeff [R-SC-3]	R · SC		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Walorski, Jackie [R-IN-2]	R · IN		Apr 30, 2015
Rep. Collins, Doug [R-GA-9]	R · GA		May 29, 2015
Rep. Davis, Rodney [R-IL-13]	R · IL		Jul 9, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Financial Services Committee	House	Referred To	Mar 4, 2015
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 20, 2015
Oversight and Government Reform Committee	House	Referred To	Mar 4, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of Mar 4, 2015)

Shahbaz Bhatti International Religious Freedom Act of 2015

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 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.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 20, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations.
- **Mar 4, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 4, 2015:** 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.

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