

## S 1353

Ensuring Access to Justice for Claims Against the United States Act

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Law

**Introduced:** May 14, 2015

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (May 14, 2015)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/1353>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]

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

### Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]	R · TX		May 14, 2015
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]	D · VT		May 14, 2015
Sen. Tester, Jon [D-MT]	D · MT		May 14, 2015

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 14, 2015

### Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Law

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 2329	Identical bill	<b>Jul 8, 2015:</b> Ordered to be Reported by Voice Vote.

## **Ensuring Access to Justice for Claims Against the United States Act**

Amends the federal judicial code with respect to the jurisdiction of federal courts over civil actions pending in, or on appeal from, the U.S. Court of Federal Claims (USCFC) when the plaintiff also has pending in another federal court a civil action that includes a claim against the United States (or an agency or officer of the United States) arising from the same set of operative facts.

Requires the court presiding over the action that was filed later to stay the later action until the action that was filed first is no longer pending. (Currently, the USCFC is prohibited from having jurisdiction of any claim in which the plaintiff has pending in any other court any suit or process against the United States or any person who was acting or professing to act under the authority of the United States.)

Provides an exception to the requirement to stay the later action if: (1) the parties in each of the actions agree; or (2) in exceptional circumstances the court finds, upon the motion of any party, that termination or modification of the stay is necessary to preserve material evidence or to prevent irreparable prejudice to that party.

Provides the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit with jurisdiction of an appeal from an interlocutory order terminating or modifying such a stay.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **May 14, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
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