

HR 1587

Unlocking Technology Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Commerce

Introduced: Mar 24, 2015

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet. (Apr 21, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/1587>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-19]

Party: Democratic • **State:** CA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (7 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Eshoo, Anna G. [D-CA-18]	D · CA		Mar 24, 2015
Rep. Massie, Thomas [R-KY-4]	R · KY		Mar 24, 2015
Rep. Polis, Jared [D-CO-2]	D · CO		Mar 24, 2015
Rep. DeFazio, Peter A. [D-OR-4]	D · OR		May 12, 2015
Rep. Cleaver, Emanuel [D-MO-5]	D · MO		May 14, 2015
Rep. Honda, Michael M. [D-CA-17]	D · CA		Jun 2, 2015
Rep. Slaughter, Louise McIntosh [D-NY-25]	D · NY		Feb 3, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Apr 21, 2015
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred To	Mar 24, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Commerce

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Unlocking Technology Act of 2015

Amends the prohibition under federal copyright law on the circumvention of a technological measure that controls access to a copyright-protected work to require that such prohibition apply only to circumventions carried out in order to infringe or facilitate infringement of a protected work.

Declares that it shall not be a violation to: (1) circumvent a technological measure if the purpose is to engage in a use that is not an infringement of federal copyright law; or (2) use, manufacture, import, offer to the public, provide, or otherwise traffic in any technology, product, service, device, component, or part primarily designed or produced to facilitate noninfringing uses of protected works by circumventing a technological measure that effectively controls access to such work, unless the intent is to infringe or facilitate infringement of a copyright.

Declares that it is not an infringement to copy or adapt the software or firmware of a user-purchased mobile communications device for the sole purpose of enabling the device to connect to a wireless communications network if: (1) the copying or adapting is initiated by, or with the consent of, the owner of that device or the owner's agent; (2) the owner or agent is in legal possession of the device; and (3) the owner has the consent of, or an agreement with, the authorized operator of such wireless communications network to make use of its network. (Thus, allows the "unlocking" of mobile devices without requiring an owner to obtain the consent of the initial carrier network before switching to a new carrier.)

Directs the President to ensure that applicable bilateral and multilateral trade agreements are modified to be consistent with this Act.

Actions Timeline

- **Apr 21, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet.
- **Mar 24, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 24, 2015:** Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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.