

S 1598

First Amendment Defense Act

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Civil Rights and Liberties, Minority Issues

Introduced: Jun 17, 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. (Jun 17, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/1598>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Lee, Mike [R-UT]

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

Cosponsors (37 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Cassidy, Bill [R-LA]	R · LA		Jun 17, 2015
Sen. Cotton, Tom [R-AR]	R · AR		Jun 17, 2015
Sen. Crapo, Mike [R-ID]	R · ID		Jun 17, 2015
Sen. Cruz, Ted [R-TX]	R · TX		Jun 17, 2015
Sen. Daines, Steve [R-MT]	R · MT		Jun 17, 2015
Sen. Enzi, Michael B. [R-WY]	R · WY		Jun 17, 2015
Sen. Graham, Lindsey [R-SC]	R · SC		Jun 17, 2015
Sen. Hatch, Orrin G. [R-UT]	R · UT		Jun 17, 2015
Sen. Inhofe, James M. [R-OK]	R · OK		Jun 17, 2015
Sen. Perdue, David [R-GA]	R · GA		Jun 17, 2015
Sen. Risch, James E. [R-ID]	R · ID		Jun 17, 2015
Sen. Roberts, Pat [R-KS]	R · KS		Jun 17, 2015
Sen. Rounds, Mike [R-SD]	R · SD		Jun 17, 2015
Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL]	R · FL		Jun 17, 2015
Sen. Sasse, Ben [R-NE]	R · NE		Jun 17, 2015
Sen. Sessions, Jeff [R-AL]	R · AL		Jun 17, 2015
Sen. Vitter, David [R-LA]	R · LA		Jun 17, 2015
Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]	R · MS		Jun 17, 2015
Sen. Lankford, James [R-OK]	R · OK		Jun 24, 2015
Sen. Shelby, Richard C. [R-AL]	R · AL		Jun 24, 2015
Sen. Thune, John [R-SD]	R · SD		Jun 24, 2015
Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]	R · TX		Jul 7, 2015
Sen. Fischer, Deb [R-NE]	R · NE		Jul 7, 2015
Sen. Hoeven, John [R-ND]	R · ND		Jul 7, 2015
Sen. Isakson, Johnny [R-GA]	R · GA		Jul 8, 2015
Sen. Barrasso, John [R-WY]	R · WY		Jul 9, 2015
Sen. Boozman, John [R-AR]	R · AR		Jul 9, 2015
Sen. Burr, Richard [R-NC]	R · NC		Jul 9, 2015
Sen. Coats, Daniel [R-IN]	R · IN		Jul 9, 2015
Sen. Cochran, Thad [R-MS]	R · MS		Jul 9, 2015
Sen. Johnson, Ron [R-WI]	R · WI		Jul 9, 2015
Sen. Sullivan, Dan [R-AK]	R · AK		Jul 9, 2015
Sen. Tillis, Thomas [R-NC]	R · NC		Jul 9, 2015
Sen. McCain, John [R-AZ]	R · AZ		Jul 13, 2015
Sen. Paul, Rand [R-KY]	R · KY		Jul 16, 2015
Sen. Scott, Tim [R-SC]	R · SC		Jul 16, 2015
Sen. Moran, Jerry [R-KS]	R · KS		Sep 17, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jun 17, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Civil Rights and Liberties, Minority Issues

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 2802	Identical bill	Jun 17, 2015: Referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 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.

Summary (as of Jun 17, 2015)

First Amendment Defense Act

Prohibits the federal government from taking discriminatory action against a person on the basis that such person believes or acts in accordance with a religious belief or moral conviction that: (1) marriage is or should be recognized as the union of one man and one woman, or (2) sexual relations are properly reserved to such a marriage.

Defines "discriminatory action" as any federal government action to discriminate against a person with such beliefs or convictions, including a federal government action to:

- alter the federal tax treatment of, cause any tax, penalty, or payment to be assessed against, or deny, delay, or revoke certain tax exemptions of any such person;
- disallow a deduction of any charitable contribution made to or by such person;
- withhold, reduce, exclude, terminate, or otherwise deny any federal grant, contract, subcontract, cooperative agreement, loan, license, certification, accreditation, employment, or similar position or status from or to such person; or
- withhold, reduce, exclude, terminate, or otherwise deny any benefit under a federal benefit program.

Requires the federal government to consider to be accredited, licensed, or certified for purposes of federal law any person who would be accredited, licensed, or certified for such purposes but for a determination that the person believes or acts in accordance with such a religious belief or moral conviction.

Permits a person to assert an actual or threatened violation of this Act as a claim or defense in a judicial or administrative proceeding and to obtain compensatory damages or other appropriate relief against the federal government.

Authorizes the Attorney General to bring an action to enforce this Act against the Government Accountability Office or an establishment in the executive branch, other than the U.S. Postal Service or the Postal Regulatory Commission, that is not an executive department, military department, or government corporation.

Defines "person" as any person regardless of religious affiliation, including corporations and other entities regardless of for-profit or nonprofit status.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 17, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
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