

## HR 1615

DHS FOIA Efficiency Act of 2015

**Congress:** 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Government Operations and Politics

**Introduced:** Mar 25, 2015

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

**Latest Action:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary. (Jul 7, 2015)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/1615>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Carter, Earl L. "Buddy" [R-GA-1]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** GA • **Chamber:** House

### Cosponsors (9 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Hurd, Will [R-TX-23]	R · TX		Mar 25, 2015
Rep. Katko, John [R-NY-24]	R · NY		Mar 25, 2015
Rep. Loudermilk, Barry [R-GA-11]	R · GA		Mar 25, 2015
Rep. McCaul, Michael T. [R-TX-10]	R · TX		Mar 25, 2015
Rep. McSally, Martha [R-AZ-2]	R · AZ		Mar 25, 2015
Rep. Ratcliffe, John [R-TX-4]	R · TX		Mar 25, 2015
Rep. Walker, Mark [R-NC-6]	R · NC		Mar 25, 2015
Rep. Miller, Candice S. [R-MI-10]	R · MI		May 12, 2015
Rep. Perry, Scott [R-PA-4]	R · PA		May 12, 2015

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security Committee	House	Reported by	May 13, 2015
Judiciary Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jul 7, 2015

### Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Government Operations and Politics

### Related Bills

*No related bills are listed.*

(This measure has not been amended since it was reported to the House of Representatives on June 11, 2015. The summary of that version is repeated here.)

### **DHS FOIA Efficiency Act of 2015**

(Sec. 2) Directs the Chief FOIA Officer of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS):

- within 90 days after enactment of this Act, to issue an updated regulation implementing the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and to identify the total annual implementation costs;
- to develop guidance on reporting standards related to costs of processing FOIA requests;
- within 120 days after enactment of this Act, to identify unnecessary and duplicative actions taken by DHS in processing such requests;
- to eliminate such actions within 12 months after identifying them; and
- within 90 days after enactment of this Act, to develop a plan to automate the processing of requests and to issue guidance to the relevant DHS components regarding the goal of reducing the backlog in processing requests by 50% between FY2015 and FY2018.

Requires the regulation implementing FOIA to include: (1) public guidance on procedures to be followed when making requests for DHS rules, opinions, orders, records, or proceedings; (2) updated guidance to the DHS components for processing such requests, which may include information on automated processing; and (3) detailed information on fees and costs associated with, and on the appeals process for, requests.

Directs the Chief FOIA Officer to include: (1) in each semiannual privacy report submitted under the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, the total costs to DHS of meeting FOIA requirements and assessments of progress made toward meeting backlog goals, of whether DHS has adequate staffing and other resources to address such goals, and of progress made toward automating the processing of requests; and (2) in the second semiannual privacy report for FY2016, a description of any cost savings identified from, and the plan developed for, automating the processing of requests.

(Sec. 3) Directs the Chief FOIA Officer to provide such plan, upon completion, to DHS components and seek written feedback regarding the extent to which each component will adopt the plan, the associated costs, and the projected time lines.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Jul 7, 2015:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.
- **Jun 25, 2015:** Considered as unfinished business. (consideration: CR H4665-4666)
- **Jun 25, 2015:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 423 - 0 (Roll no. 387).(text: CR 6/23/2015 H4570-4571)
- **Jun 25, 2015:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 423 - 0 (Roll no. 387). (text: CR 6/23/2015 H4570-4571)
- **Jun 25, 2015:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Jun 23, 2015:** Mr. Carter (GA) moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Jun 23, 2015:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H4570-4572)
- **Jun 23, 2015:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 1615.
- **Jun 23, 2015:** At the conclusion of debate, the Yeas and Nays were demanded and ordered. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8, rule XX, the Chair announced that further proceedings on the motion would be postponed.
- **Jun 11, 2015:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Homeland Security. H. Rept. 114-148.
- **Jun 11, 2015:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 106.
- **May 20, 2015:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **May 20, 2015:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Voice Vote.
- **May 13, 2015:** Subcommittee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **May 13, 2015:** Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee (Amended) by Voice Vote .
- **Apr 7, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency.
- **Mar 25, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 25, 2015:** Referred to the House Committee on Homeland Security.