

HR 2037

United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: Apr 27, 2015

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations. (May 20, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/2037>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Smith, Christopher H. [R-NJ-4]

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

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Poe, Ted [R-TX-2]	R · TX		Jun 24, 2015
Rep. Aderholt, Robert B. [R-AL-4]	R · AL		Sep 8, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	May 20, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 1150	Related bill	Dec 16, 2016: Became Public Law No: 114-281.
114 S 1798	Related bill	Jul 16, 2015: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act of 2015

Amends the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to reauthorize the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) as an independent federal government advisory body through FY2021.

Requires the USCIRF as a whole to have expertise on the variety of faiths practiced around the world.

Requires appointments to the USCIRF to be made within 90 days of a vacancy. Removes authority under which a USCIRF member may serve after the expiration of that member's term until a successor has taken office.

Amends the Foreign Service Act of 1980 to require the Secretary of State to receive assistance from the USCIRF when establishing training for Foreign Service officers in the field of internationally recognized human rights, including instruction regarding the relationship between religious freedom and security, as well as the role of religious freedom in U.S. foreign policy.

Encourages the Department of State to allow classified information to be accessed by USCIRF Commissioners and staff with the appropriate security clearance.

Requires discrimination on the basis of religion to be treated as a category of employment discrimination for purposes of the employment protections for USCIRF employees.

Revises restrictions on the USCIRF's acceptance of gifts and donations to permit sponsoring private parties to provide compensation and benefits to interns, fellows, and volunteers. Requires the number, duration, and funding source of any such internship, fellowship, or volunteer programs to be described in the USCIRF's annual financial report.

Actions Timeline

- **May 20, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations.
- **Apr 27, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 27, 2015:** Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.