

S 2078

United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: Sep 24, 2015

Current Status: Became Public Law No: 114-71.

Latest Action: Became Public Law No: 114-71. (Oct 16, 2015)

Law: 114-71 (Enacted Oct 16, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/2078>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Corker, Bob [R-TN]

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

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Relations Committee	Senate	Reported Original Measure	Sep 24, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 S 2079	Identical bill	Sep 24, 2015: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

(This measure has not been amended since it was introduced. The expanded summary of the Senate reported version is repeated here.)

United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act of 2015

This bill reauthorizes the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) through FY2019.

(Sec. 2) It expresses the sense of Congress that USCIRF: (1) was created to independently assess and accurately describe threats to religious freedom around the world; and (2) should ensure that U.S. efforts to advance religious freedom abroad are timely, appropriate to the circumstances, prudent, and effective.

(Sec. 3) The termination date of USCIRF is extended to September 30, 2019.

(Sec. 4) The Chair and Vice Chair of USCIRF must at least biennially carry out a strategic policy and organizational review and submit a strategic plan to Congress concerning: (1) prioritized actions for USCIRF, (2) any changes it considers necessary with regard to the scope, content, and timing of USCIRF's annual report; (3) any changes USCIRF considers necessary with regard to personnel matters; and (4) USCIRF's funding requirements.

If unanimous agreement is not possible, items for inclusion in the strategic plan may, at the joint discretion of the Chair and Vice Chair, be approved by: (1) a majority of Commissioners appointed by an elected official from the political party of the President, and (2) a majority of Commissioners appointed by an elected official from the political party that is not the party of the President.

The Vice Chair for such purposes must be appointed by an elected official from the political party that is different from the political party of the elected official who appointed the Chair.

USCIRF is authorized to implement provisions related to personnel and the annual report that are included in the strategic plan, notwithstanding USCIRF's annual recommendations on U.S. policy options and a current requirement that a decision to employ or terminate an Executive Director be made by an affirmative vote of at least six of USCIRF's nine members.

USCIRF, upon request, must provide testimony and make information available to Congress.

(Sec. 5) USCIRF is authorized to expend appropriated amounts only if it complies with this Act and submits its annual financial report identifying expenditures for the preceding fiscal year.

Actions Timeline

- **Oct 16, 2015:** Signed by President.
- **Oct 16, 2015:** Became Public Law No: 114-71.
- **Oct 8, 2015:** Presented to President.
- **Oct 6, 2015:** Mr. Royce moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill.
- **Oct 6, 2015:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H6808-6811)
- **Oct 6, 2015:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on S. 2078.
- **Oct 6, 2015:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by voice vote.(text: CR H6808)
- **Oct 6, 2015:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H6808)
- **Oct 6, 2015:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Oct 1, 2015:** Received in the House.
- **Oct 1, 2015:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Oct 1, 2015:** Held at the desk.
- **Sep 30, 2015:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate without amendment by Unanimous Consent.(consideration: CR S7051-7052; text as passed Senate: CR S7051-7052)
- **Sep 30, 2015:** Passed Senate without amendment by Unanimous Consent. (consideration: CR S7051-7052; text as passed Senate: CR S7051-7052)
- **Sep 24, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Sep 24, 2015:** Committee on Foreign Relations. Original measure reported to Senate by Senator Corker. Without written report.
- **Sep 24, 2015:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 238.