

HR 2110

Consumer Review Freedom Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Commerce

Introduced: Apr 29, 2015

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade. (May 1, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/2110>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Issa, Darrell E. [R-CA-49]

Party: Republican • State: CA • Chamber: House

Cosponsors (8 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Cohen, Steve [D-TN-9]	D · TN		Apr 29, 2015
Rep. Eshoo, Anna G. [D-CA-18]	D · CA		Apr 29, 2015
Rep. Farenthold, Blake [R-TX-27]	R · TX		Apr 29, 2015
Rep. Sherman, Brad [D-CA-30]	D · CA		Apr 29, 2015
Rep. Swalwell, Eric [D-CA-15]	D · CA		Apr 29, 2015
Rep. Honda, Michael M. [D-CA-17]	D · CA		May 12, 2015
Rep. Polis, Jared [D-CO-2]	D · CO		May 18, 2015
Rep. Peters, Scott H. [D-CA-52]	D · CA		Jul 8, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	May 1, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Commerce

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 S 2044	Related bill	Dec 18, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade.

## **Consumer Review Freedom Act of 2015**

Declares a provision of a form contract to be void from the inception if it: (1) prohibits or restricts a person who is a party to the contract from engaging in written, verbal, or pictorial reviews, or other similar performance assessments or analyses of, the products, services, or conduct of a business that is a party to the contract; (2) imposes penalties or fees against persons who engage in such communications; or (3) transfers or requires the individual to transfer any intellectual property rights in any such otherwise lawful communications about the person or the goods or services provided by the person or business. (Thus, bars certain contract provisions that prohibit consumers from commenting publicly about businesses.)

Sets forth exceptions under which a provision shall not be considered void under this Act if the provision prohibits disclosure of certain: (1) trade secrets or commercial or financial information, (2) personnel and medical files, or (3) law enforcement records.

Provides for this Act to be inapplicable to contracts establishing an employer-employee or independent contractor relationship.

Prohibits businesses from offering or entering into form contracts containing a provision that is considered void under this Act. Sets forth authority for the Department of Justice (DOJ) and state attorneys general to enforce such prohibition.

Requires DOJ to bring an action against any business that violates such prohibition for civil penalty of not more than \$16,000 for each day that the business requires the use of such a form contract by a distinct person.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **May 1, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade.
- **Apr 29, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 29, 2015:** Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.