

S 214

Shareholder Protection Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Finance and Financial Sector

Introduced: Jan 21, 2015

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (Jan 21, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/214>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]

Party: Democratic • **State:** NJ • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (13 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Jan 21, 2015
Sen. Franken, Al [D-MN]	D · MN		Jan 21, 2015
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Jan 21, 2015
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]	D · VT		Jan 21, 2015
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Jan 21, 2015
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Jan 21, 2015
Sen. Udall, Tom [D-NM]	D · NM		Jan 21, 2015
Sen. Warren, Elizabeth [D-MA]	D · MA		Jan 21, 2015
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		Jan 21, 2015
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Jan 22, 2015
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Jan 22, 2015
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Jan 27, 2015
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		Jul 12, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jan 21, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Finance and Financial Sector

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 446	Identical bill	Jan 21, 2015: Referred to the House Committee on Financial Services.

Shareholder Protection Act of 2015

Amends the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require that any solicitation of a proxy, consent, or authorization with respect to any security of an issuer: (1) describe the specific nature (to the extent known) and total amount of expenditures proposed for political activities for the forthcoming fiscal year but not yet authorized by a vote of the issuer's shareholders, and (2) provide for a separate shareholder vote to authorize such proposed expenditures.

Prohibits an issuer from making an expenditure for political activities in any fiscal year unless: (1) such expenditure is of the nature of those proposed by the issuer according to the requirements of this Act, and (2) authorization for such expenditure has been granted by votes representing a majority of outstanding shares.

Deems a violation of this requirement to be a breach of the fiduciary duty of the officers and directors who authorized such expenditure. Subjects officers and directors who authorize the expenditure without prior shareholder authorization to joint and several liability to any shareholder or class of shareholders for the amount of such expenditure.

Requires certain institutional investment managers to disclose annually in mandatory reports how they voted (proxies) in certain shareholder votes.

Prohibits any person from bringing any civil, criminal, or administrative action against an institutional investment manager, or any of its employees, officers, or directors, based solely upon the investment manager's decision to divest from, or not to invest in, securities of an issuer because of expenditures for political activities made by that issuer.

Requires the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to direct the national securities exchanges and national securities associations to prohibit the listing of any equity security of an issuer whose corporate bylaws do not expressly provide for a vote of the issuer's directors on any individual expenditure for political activities in excess of \$50,000.

Requires an issuer to make public, within 48 hours, the individual votes of the directors regarding any such expenditure.

Directs the SEC to: (1) require issuers to disclose expenditures for political activities made during the preceding quarter and the individual votes by board members authorizing such expenditures, and (2) make such reports publicly available through the SEC website.

Requires the SEC to make annual assessments of the compliance by public corporations and their management with the reporting and disclosure requirements of this Act, and the Comptroller General to evaluate periodically the effectiveness of SEC oversight of these requirements.

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 21, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 21, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.