

HR 2140

Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: Apr 30, 2015

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific. (May 20, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/2140>

Sponsor

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

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

Cosponsors (18 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Connolly, Gerald E. [D-VA-11]	D · VA		Apr 30, 2015
Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-19]	D · CA		Apr 30, 2015
Rep. Lowenthal, Alan S. [D-CA-47]	D · CA		Apr 30, 2015
Rep. Rohrabacher, Dana [R-CA-48]	R · CA		Apr 30, 2015
Rep. Royce, Edward R. [R-CA-39]	R · CA		Apr 30, 2015
Rep. Sanchez, Loretta [D-CA-46]	D · CA		Apr 30, 2015
Rep. Emmer, Tom [R-MN-6]	R · MN		May 12, 2015
Rep. Ros-Lehtinen, Ileana [R-FL-27]	R · FL		May 12, 2015
Rep. Meadows, Mark [R-NC-11]	R · NC		Jun 1, 2015
Rep. Poe, Ted [R-TX-2]	R · TX		Jun 12, 2015
Rep. Fitzpatrick, Michael G. [R-PA-8]	R · PA		Jun 23, 2015
Rep. Doggett, Lloyd [D-TX-35]	D · TX		Jun 24, 2015
Rep. Russell, Steve [R-OK-5]	R · OK		Jun 24, 2015
Rep. McCaul, Michael T. [R-TX-10]	R · TX		Jul 7, 2015
Rep. Posey, Bill [R-FL-8]	R · FL		Jul 7, 2015
Rep. Trott, David A. [R-MI-11]	R · MI		Jul 9, 2015
Rep. Comstock, Barbara [R-VA-10]	R · VA		Apr 29, 2016
Rep. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD-8]	D · MD		Jul 13, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Reported by	May 14, 2015
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Referred to	May 20, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 S 2632	Related bill	Mar 3, 2016: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Summary (as of Apr 30, 2015)

Vietnam Human Rights Act of 2015

This bill prohibits U.S. nonhumanitarian assistance to the government of Vietnam in excess of FY2014 amounts unless the President certifies to Congress that the government of Vietnam has made substantial progress respecting political, civil, media, Internet, and religious freedoms, minority rights, access to U.S. refugee programs, and actions to end trafficking in persons and the release of religious and political prisoners.

The President may waive such requirements:

- if increased U.S. nonhumanitarian assistance would promote the purposes of this Act or is otherwise in the U.S. national interest,
- with respect to all U.S. nonhumanitarian assistance to Vietnam, or to one or more programs or projects.

It is the sense of Congress that:

- it shall be U.S. policy that further easing of the prohibition on the sale of lethal military equipment to Vietnam shall require Vietnam to take additional and sustained steps to advance human rights protections;
- the United States should take measures to overcome the jamming of Radio Free Asia by Vietnam and that the Broadcasting Board of Governors should not cut staffing, funding, or broadcast hours for the Vietnamese language services of the Voice of America and Radio Free Asia;
- U.S.-Vietnam educational and cultural exchange programs should promote freedom and democracy in Vietnam;
- Vietnam should be designated as a country of particular concern for religious freedom; and
- Vietnam does not fully comply with the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking and is not making significant efforts to bring itself into compliance.

Actions Timeline

- **May 20, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific.
- **May 14, 2015:** Subcommittee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **May 14, 2015:** Forwarded by Subcommittee to Full Committee by Unanimous Consent .
- **May 7, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations.
- **Apr 30, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 30, 2015:** Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.