

HR 2251

Defending Internet Freedom Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Science, Technology, Communications

Introduced: May 12, 2015

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology. (May 15, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/2251>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Kelly, Mike [R-PA-3]

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

Cosponsors (6 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Jones, Walter B., Jr. [R-NC-3]	R · NC		May 12, 2015
Rep. McCaul, Michael T. [R-TX-10]	R · TX		May 12, 2015
Rep. Gosar, Paul A. [R-AZ-4]	R · AZ		May 21, 2015
Rep. Scott, Austin [R-GA-8]	R · GA		Jun 10, 2015
Rep. Ross, Dennis A. [R-FL-15]	R · FL		Nov 14, 2016
Rep. Thompson, Glenn [R-PA-5]	R · PA		Nov 14, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	May 15, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Science, Technology, Communications

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Defending Internet Freedom Act of 2015

Prohibits the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information from relinquishing the responsibilities of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) with respect to Internet domain name functions, including Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) functions, unless the Assistant Secretary certifies to Congress that a final proposal has been received that ensures:

- control over the management of the Internet domain name system will not be exercised by a governmental or intergovernmental body;
- standards for freedoms of speech, of the press, of assembly, and of association are at least as protective as the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution;
- the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) has an external, independent process for reviewing and resolving disputes between ICANN and external parties, including the ability to reverse decisions of the board of directors;
- ICANN remains subject to U.S. law;
- ICANN has adopted disclosure procedures that are at least as protective of public access as the Freedom of Information Act;
- the U.S. government has been granted ownership of the ".gov" and ".mil" top-level domains; and
- ICANN has adopted additional measures recommended by the multistakeholder community.

Requires such certification to ensure amendments to ICANN bylaws to prohibit ICANN from: (1) engaging in activities unrelated to ICANN's core mission of managing the IANA functions and proposing and overseeing policy decisions central to coordinating the global interoperability and uniqueness of Internet domain names; or (2) agreeing to impose on a registrar or registry any condition, such as a regulation of content, that is unrelated to ICANN's core mission.

Requires such a certification to also ensure amendments to bylaws concerning: (1) Governmental Advisory Committee advice and policy proposals, and (2) a required supermajority of the board of directors for votes regarding changes to bylaws.

Directs the Assistant Secretary, if such a certification is not submitted to Congress by a specified deadline, to extend through September 30, 2017, the existing IANA functions contract under which ICANN is required to perform IANA functions.

Actions Timeline

- **May 15, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.
- **May 12, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **May 12, 2015:** Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

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