

S 278

Citizen Empowerment Act

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Government Operations and Politics

Introduced: Jan 28, 2015

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. (Jan 28, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/278>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Blunt, Roy [R-MO]

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

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]	R · TX		Jan 28, 2015
Sen. Fischer, Deb [R-NE]	R · NE		Jan 28, 2015
Sen. Roberts, Pat [R-KS]	R · KS		Jan 28, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jan 28, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 2856	Related bill	Jul 9, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.

Citizen Empowerment Act

Requires any executive agency employee who is conducting a covered interaction with an individual to allow the individual to make an audio recording of such interaction at the individual's expense and with the individual's equipment. Defines "covered interaction" as an in-person or telephonic official interaction relating to a possible violation of a federal statute or regulation that could result in the imposition of a fine or penalty against, the forfeiture of property by, or the collection of an unpaid tax, fine, or penalty from, the individual or a business owned or operated by the individual.

Permits the employee conducting a covered interaction to record it if the employee: (1) informs the individual prior to or at the initiation of the interaction, and (2) provides the individual with a transcript or copy of the recording upon request and with the individual's reimbursement.

Requires the employee, before or at an initial covered interaction, to provide to the individual a verbal or written notice of such individual's rights under this Act.

Exempts any such interaction that is likely to include the discussion of: (1) classified material; or (2) information that, if released publicly, would endanger public safety or an ongoing criminal investigation.

Subjects any executive agency employee who violates this Act to disciplinary action.

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 28, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 28, 2015:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.