

HR 3401

Stopping Over-Criminalization Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Crime and Law Enforcement

Introduced: Jul 29, 2015

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations. (Sep 8, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/3401>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Rooney, Thomas J. [R-FL-17]

Party: Republican • State: FL • Chamber: House

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Richmond, Cedric L. [D-LA-2]	D · LA		Jul 29, 2015

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Sep 8, 2015
Rules Committee	House	Referred To	Jul 29, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Stopping Over-Criminalization Act of 2015

This bill amends the federal criminal code to establish a default mens rea (guilty mind) standard for a federal criminal offense, unless the provision of law that defines such offense specifically provides otherwise.

A federal criminal offense conviction requires proof that a defendant acted knowingly with respect to each element of the offense. If a defendant might lack reasonable awareness that conduct (e.g., a regulatory offense) is criminally punishable, then a conviction requires proof that the defendant had reason to know the conduct was unlawful.

Additionally, the bill amends the federal judicial code to: (1) require the Department of Justice to develop, publish, and update an inventory of all federal criminal offenses, including agency rules that carry criminal penalties; and (2) prohibit prosecuting a defendant for a non-inventoried federal offense.

Finally, it amends the Congressional Review Act to require congressional approval by joint resolution for a new rule with criminal penalties to take effect.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 8, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations.
- **Jul 29, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Jul 29, 2015:** Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.