

HR 4264

Azerbaijan Democracy Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: Dec 16, 2015

Current Status: Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, an

Latest Action: Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Financial Services, 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. (Dec 16, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/4264>

Sponsor

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

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

Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Slaughter, Louise McIntosh [D-NY-25]	D · NY		Jan 6, 2016
Rep. Heck, Joseph J. [R-NV-3]	R · NV		Feb 11, 2016
Rep. McGovern, James P. [D-MA-2]	D · MA		Mar 2, 2016
Rep. Schiff, Adam B. [D-CA-28]	D · CA		Apr 12, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Financial Services Committee	House	Referred To	Dec 16, 2015
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Referred To	Dec 16, 2015
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred To	Dec 16, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Azerbaijan Democracy Act of 2015

This bill prohibits the issuance of any visa to, and requires denial of entry to the United States of, any alien who:

- holds a position in the senior leadership of the government of Azerbaijan, or is an immediate family member of such person;
- through his or her business dealings with such senior leadership derives significant financial benefit from policies or actions, including electoral fraud, human rights abuses, or corruption, that undermine democratic institutions or impede the transition to democracy in Azerbaijan; or
- is a member of any branch of the security, judicial, or law enforcement services of Azerbaijan and has participated in the persecution or harassment of independent media or journalists, human rights defenders, opposition groups, or religious groups.

The Department of State shall revoke any existing visas of such ineligible aliens.

The visa and entry prohibitions shall not apply to a government official of Azerbaijan seeking U.S. entry to participate in talks related to resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict.

It is the sense of Congress that:

- no loan, credit guarantee, insurance, or financing assistance be extended by any U.S. agency to the government of Azerbaijan, except for the provision of humanitarian goods and agricultural or medical products; and
- no funds available to the Trade and Development Agency should be available for activities of the Agency in or for Azerbaijan.

It is also the sense of Congress that the President should block all property and interests in property that:

- are owned by any member of the senior leadership of the government of Azerbaijan, by any family member, or by any person who through his or her business dealings with such persons derives significant financial benefit from policies or actions that undermine Azerbaijan's democratic institutions; and
- are or come within the United States, or that are or come within the possession or control of any U.S. person.

Activities prohibited by reason of the blocking of property and interests in property should include payments or transfers of any property, or any transactions involving the transfer of anything of economic value by any U.S. person to any person whose assets are blocked.

It is the sense of Congress that the President should continue to seek the support of other countries, particularly European countries, for a multilateral strategy to further the purposes of this Act.

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 16, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Dec 16, 2015:** Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Financial Services, 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.