

HR 5931

Prohibiting Future Ransom Payments to Iran Act

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: Sep 6, 2016

Current Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Latest Action: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. (Sep 26, 2016)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/5931>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Royce, Edward R. [R-CA-39]

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

Cosponsors (70 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Chabot, Steve [R-OH-1]	R · OH		Sep 6, 2016
Rep. Chaffetz, Jason [R-UT-3]	R · UT		Sep 6, 2016
Rep. Conaway, K. Michael [R-TX-11]	R · TX		Sep 6, 2016
Rep. Cook, Paul [R-CA-8]	R · CA		Sep 6, 2016
Rep. Dent, Charles W. [R-PA-15]	R · PA		Sep 6, 2016
Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6]	R · FL		Sep 6, 2016
Rep. DesJarlais, Scott [R-TN-4]	R · TN		Sep 6, 2016
Rep. Donovan, Daniel M., Jr. [R-NY-11]	R · NY		Sep 6, 2016
Rep. Duffy, Sean P. [R-WI-7]	R · WI		Sep 6, 2016
Rep. Fitzpatrick, Michael G. [R-PA-8]	R · PA		Sep 6, 2016
Rep. McCaul, Michael T. [R-TX-10]	R · TX		Sep 6, 2016
Rep. Meadows, Mark [R-NC-11]	R · NC		Sep 6, 2016
Rep. Nunes, Devin [R-CA-22]	R · CA		Sep 6, 2016
Rep. Pittenger, Robert [R-NC-9]	R · NC		Sep 6, 2016
Rep. Ribble, Reid J. [R-WI-8]	R · WI		Sep 6, 2016
Rep. Rohrabacher, Dana [R-CA-48]	R · CA		Sep 6, 2016
Rep. Ros-Lehtinen, Ileana [R-FL-27]	R · FL		Sep 6, 2016
Rep. Rothfus, Keith J. [R-PA-12]	R · PA		Sep 6, 2016
Rep. Sessions, Pete [R-TX-32]	R · TX		Sep 6, 2016
Rep. Stivers, Steve [R-OH-15]	R · OH		Sep 6, 2016
Rep. Thornberry, Mac [R-TX-13]	R · TX		Sep 6, 2016
Rep. Trott, David A. [R-MI-11]	R · MI		Sep 6, 2016
Rep. Williams, Roger [R-TX-25]	R · TX		Sep 6, 2016
Rep. Yoho, Ted S. [R-FL-3]	R · FL		Sep 6, 2016
Rep. Young, David [R-IA-3]	R · IA		Sep 6, 2016
Rep. Zeldin, Lee M. [R-NY-1]	R · NY		Sep 6, 2016
Rep. Abraham, Ralph Lee [R-LA-5]	R · LA		Sep 7, 2016
Rep. Barr, Andy [R-KY-6]	R · KY		Sep 7, 2016
Rep. Emmer, Tom [R-MN-6]	R · MN		Sep 7, 2016
Rep. Garrett, Scott [R-NJ-5]	R · NJ		Sep 7, 2016
Rep. Gibson, Christopher P. [R-NY-19]	R · NY		Sep 7, 2016
Rep. Marino, Tom [R-PA-10]	R · PA		Sep 7, 2016
Rep. Salmon, Matt [R-AZ-5]	R · AZ		Sep 7, 2016
Rep. Kelly, Trent [R-MS-1]	R · MS		Sep 8, 2016
Rep. Messer, Luke [R-IN-6]	R · IN		Sep 8, 2016
Rep. Posey, Bill [R-FL-8]	R · FL		Sep 8, 2016
Rep. Blum, Rod [R-IA-1]	R · IA		Sep 9, 2016
Rep. Burgess, Michael C. [R-TX-26]	R · TX		Sep 9, 2016
Rep. Flores, Bill [R-TX-17]	R · TX		Sep 9, 2016
Rep. Huizenga, Bill [R-MI-2]	R · MI		Sep 9, 2016
Rep. King, Peter T. [R-NY-2]	R · NY		Sep 9, 2016

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Olson, Pete [R-TX-22]	R · TX		Sep 9, 2016
Rep. Wagner, Ann [R-MO-2]	R · MO		Sep 9, 2016
Rep. Weber, Randy K., Sr. [R-TX-14]	R · TX		Sep 9, 2016
Rep. Collins, Chris [R-NY-27]	R · NY		Sep 12, 2016
Rep. Goodlatte, Bob [R-VA-6]	R · VA		Sep 12, 2016
Rep. Hice, Jody B. [R-GA-10]	R · GA		Sep 12, 2016
Rep. LaMalfa, Doug [R-CA-1]	R · CA		Sep 12, 2016
Rep. Pompeo, Mike [R-KS-4]	R · KS		Sep 12, 2016
Rep. Ross, Dennis A. [R-FL-15]	R · FL		Sep 12, 2016
Rep. Allen, Rick W. [R-GA-12]	R · GA		Sep 13, 2016
Rep. Bishop, Mike [R-MI-8]	R · MI		Sep 13, 2016
Rep. Bost, Mike [R-IL-12]	R · IL		Sep 13, 2016
Rep. Bucshon, Larry [R-IN-8]	R · IN		Sep 13, 2016
Rep. Harper, Gregg [R-MS-3]	R · MS		Sep 13, 2016
Rep. Mulvaney, Mick [R-SC-5]	R · SC		Sep 13, 2016
Rep. Rokita, Todd [R-IN-4]	R · IN		Sep 13, 2016
Rep. Valadao, David G. [R-CA-21]	R · CA		Sep 13, 2016
Rep. Marchant, Kenny [R-TX-24]	R · TX		Sep 14, 2016
Rep. Ratcliffe, John [R-TX-4]	R · TX		Sep 14, 2016
Rep. Roe, David P. [R-TN-1]	R · TN		Sep 14, 2016
Rep. Smith, Christopher H. [R-NJ-4]	R · NJ		Sep 14, 2016
Rep. Wilson, Joe [R-SC-2]	R · SC		Sep 14, 2016
Rep. Calvert, Ken [R-CA-42]	R · CA		Sep 15, 2016
Rep. Shimkus, John [R-IL-15]	R · IL		Sep 15, 2016
Rep. Gosar, Paul A. [R-AZ-4]	R · AZ		Sep 19, 2016
Rep. Murphy, Tim [R-PA-18]	R · PA		Sep 19, 2016
Rep. Smith, Lamar [R-TX-21]	R · TX		Sep 19, 2016
Rep. Turner, Michael R. [R-OH-10]	R · OH		Sep 20, 2016
Rep. Wenstrup, Brad R. [R-OH-2]	R · OH		Sep 20, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Reported By	Sep 20, 2016
Foreign Relations Committee	Senate	Referred To	Sep 26, 2016

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HRES 879	Procedurally related	Sep 22, 2016: Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.

Prohibiting Future Ransom Payments to Iran Act

(Sec. 3) This bill declares that it shall be U.S. policy not to pay ransom or release prisoners for the purpose of securing the release of U.S. citizens taken hostage abroad.

(Sec. 4) The U.S. government is prohibited from providing monetary instruments or precious metals to the government of Iran.

The conduct of a transaction or payment in connection with an agreement to settle a claim or claims brought before the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal (established on January 19, 1981) may be made only: (1) on a case-by-case basis pursuant to a specific license by the Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control, and (2) in a manner that does not contradict such monetary instruments or precious metals prohibition. The President must publish in the Federal Register a list of such transactions or payments. The term "agreement to settle a claim or claims brought before the Iran-United States Claims Tribunal" shall not be construed to mean a promissory note.

The prohibition on the transfer of monetary instruments or precious metals and the licensing requirement shall remain in effect until the President certifies that: (1) a preliminary or final rule providing for Iran's designation as a jurisdiction of primary money laundering concern has been rescinded, and (2) the Department of State has removed Iran from the list of countries that have repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism.

(Sec. 5) The President shall submit within 30 days and every 180 days for up to 3 years a report that evaluates each outstanding claim before the tribunal, including its value, current status, and likelihood of resolution within 6 months.

(Sec. 6) The President shall provide notice not later than 30 days before conducting a transaction or payment from the U.S. government to the government of Iran in connection with a claim settlement agreement.

Such notice shall include:

- the total amount of the settlement, including principal and interest;
- a legal analysis of why the settlement was made, including a description of all claims and counter-claims;
- a certification by the President that the settlement is not a ransom for the release of individuals held hostage by Iran;
- an identification of each Iranian government entity that will receive settlement amounts;
- a certification that the settlement funds will not be used to support foreign terrorist organizations, the regime of Bashar al-Assad, or other destabilizing activities;
- whether an equal amount of Iranian funds are available in the United States to satisfy judgments against Iran by victims of Iranian-sponsored terrorism;
- a copy of the settlement agreement;
- a description of the disposition of any related claims that have been subrogated to the U.S. government; and
- a certification that the settlement is in the best interest of the United States.

(Sec. 7) Nothing in this bill shall: (1) apply to activities subject to the non-covert intelligence reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947, or (2) be construed to authorize any U.S. government payment to the government of Iran.

(Sec. 9) The "government of Iran" means:

- the state and the government of Iran, as well as any related political subdivision, agency, or instrumentality;
- any entity owned or controlled by the foregoing;
- any person acting or purporting to act on behalf of any of the foregoing; and
- any person or entity identified by Treasury to be the government of Iran.

(Sec. 10) The bill prohibits the President and all U.S. government officers from making a payment to a government, person, or entity to secure the release of unjustly detained U.S. nationals or permanent resident aliens, except that such prohibition does not prohibit the U.S. government from providing assistance to such nationals or permanent residents.

(Sec. 11) The President shall, within 60 days, block transactions in U.S.-sited or -controlled property and property interests with respect to any Iranian person or entity that:

- is involved in the kidnapping or detention of any U.S. national or permanent resident alien;
- engages in an activity or transaction that materially contributes to, or poses a risk of materially contributing to, such a kidnapping or detention; or
- is owned or controlled by, or is acting on behalf of, an aforementioned person or entity or that provides financial, material, technological, or other support to such person or goods or services in support of such activity.

The requirement to block and prohibit all property and property interest transactions shall not include the authority to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(Sec. 12) The U.S. government may not provide monetary instruments or precious metals to the government of, or to an agent working on behalf of, a state sponsor of terrorism.

Such prohibition shall apply to an agency or instrumentality of the government of the Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea, or an agent acting on its behalf, in the same manner and to the same extent as would apply to an agency or instrumentality of a state sponsor of terrorism.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 26, 2016:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.
- **Sep 22, 2016:** Rule H. Res. 879 passed House.
- **Sep 22, 2016:** Considered under the provisions of rule H. Res. 879. (consideration: CR H5844-5858; text of amendment in the nature of a substitute: CR H5848-5849)
- **Sep 22, 2016:** Rule provides for consideration of H.R. 5931 with 1 hour of general debate. Motion to recommit with or without instructions allowed. The rules makes in order only those amendments printed in the report.
- **Sep 22, 2016:** House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union pursuant to H. Res. 879 and Rule XVIII.
- **Sep 22, 2016:** The Speaker designated the Honorable Steve Russell to act as Chairman of the Committee.
- **Sep 22, 2016:** GENERAL DEBATE - The Committee of the Whole proceeded with one hour of general debate on H.R. 5931.
- **Sep 22, 2016:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H.Res. 879, the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the Royce amendment No. 1.
- **Sep 22, 2016:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H.Res. 879, the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the Pompeo amendment No. 2.
- **Sep 22, 2016:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H.Res. 879, the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the Pompeo amendment No. 3, as modified.
- **Sep 22, 2016:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H.Res. 879, the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the Duffy amendment.
- **Sep 22, 2016:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H.Res. 879, the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the Engel amendment.
- **Sep 22, 2016:** POSTPONED PROCEEDINGS - At the conclusion of debate on the Engel amendment No. 5, the Chair put the question on adoption of the amendment and by voice vote announced that the noes had prevailed. Mr. Engel demanded a recorded vote and the Chair postponed further proceedings on the question of adoption of the amendment until a time to be announced.
- **Sep 22, 2016:** Mr. Royce moved that the Committee rise.
- **Sep 22, 2016:** On motion that the Committee rise Agreed to by voice vote.
- **Sep 22, 2016:** Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union rises leaving H.R. 5931 as unfinished business.
- **Sep 22, 2016:** Considered as unfinished business.
- **Sep 22, 2016:** The House resolved into Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for further consideration.
- **Sep 22, 2016:** The House rose from the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union to report H.R. 5931.
- **Sep 22, 2016:** The previous question was ordered pursuant to the rule. (consideration: CR H5857)
- **Sep 22, 2016:** Passed/agreed to in House: On passage Passed by recorded vote: 254 - 163 (Roll no. 554).
- **Sep 22, 2016:** On passage Passed by recorded vote: 254 - 163 (Roll no. 554).
- **Sep 22, 2016:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Sep 22, 2016:** The Clerk was authorized to correct section numbers, punctuation, and cross references, and to make other necessary technical and conforming corrections in the engrossment of H.R. 5931.
- **Sep 21, 2016:** Rules Committee Resolution H. Res. 879 Reported to House. Rule provides for consideration of H.R. 5931 with 1 hour of general debate. Motion to recommit with or without instructions allowed. The rules makes in order only those amendments printed in the report.
- **Sep 20, 2016:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Foreign Affairs. H. Rept. 114-767.
- **Sep 20, 2016:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 600.
- **Sep 14, 2016:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Sep 14, 2016:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Voice Vote.
- **Sep 6, 2016:** Introduced in House
- **Sep 6, 2016:** Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.