

S 678

English Language Unity Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Government Operations and Politics

Introduced: Mar 9, 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. (Mar 9, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/678>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Inhofe, James M. [R-OK]

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

Cosponsors (7 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Boozman, John [R-AR]	R · AR		Mar 9, 2015
Sen. Perdue, David [R-GA]	R · GA		Mar 9, 2015
Sen. Sessions, Jeff [R-AL]	R · AL		Mar 9, 2015
Sen. Vitter, David [R-LA]	R · LA		Mar 9, 2015
Sen. Isakson, Johnny [R-GA]	R · GA		Mar 10, 2015
Sen. Cotton, Tom [R-AR]	R · AR		Dec 17, 2015
Sen. Rounds, Mike [R-SD]	R · SD		Jan 19, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 9, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 997	Related bill	Mar 16, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security.

English Language Unity Act of 2015

Establishes English as the official language of the United States.

Requires naturalization ceremonies and official functions of the U.S. government, subject to exceptions, to be conducted in English.

Declares that all citizens should be able to read and understand generally the English language text of U.S. laws.

Allows a person injured by a violation of this Act to obtain relief, including a declaratory judgment, in a civil action.

Declares that English language requirements and workplace policies, whether in the public or private sector, shall be presumptively consistent with U.S. laws. Requires any ambiguity in U.S. laws to be resolved in accordance with the rights retained by the people and the powers reserved to states under the Bill of Rights.

Directs the Department of Homeland Security to issue a proposed rule for uniform testing of the English language ability of candidates for naturalization based upon the principles that: (1) all citizens should be able to read and understand generally the English language text of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the laws of the United States; and (2) any exceptions to this standard should be limited to extraordinary circumstances, such as asylum.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 9, 2015:** Introduced in Senate
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