

HR 997

English Language Unity Act of 2015

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Government Operations and Politics

Introduced: Feb 13, 2015

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security. (Mar 16, 2015)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/997>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. King, Steve [R-IA-4]

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

Cosponsors (90 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Brooks, Mo [R-AL-5]	R · AL		Feb 24, 2015
Rep. Duncan, Jeff [R-SC-3]	R · SC		Feb 24, 2015
Rep. Franks, Trent [R-AZ-8]	R · AZ		Feb 24, 2015
Rep. Joyce, David P. [R-OH-14]	R · OH		Feb 24, 2015
Rep. Lamborn, Doug [R-CO-5]	R · CO		Feb 24, 2015
Rep. Massie, Thomas [R-KY-4]	R · KY		Feb 24, 2015
Rep. McClintock, Tom [R-CA-4]	R · CA		Feb 24, 2015
Rep. Palazzo, Steven M. [R-MS-4]	R · MS		Feb 24, 2015
Rep. Rogers, Mike D. [R-AL-3]	R · AL		Feb 24, 2015
Rep. Rohrabacher, Dana [R-CA-48]	R · CA		Feb 24, 2015
Rep. Salmon, Matt [R-AZ-5]	R · AZ		Feb 24, 2015
Rep. Jones, Walter B., Jr. [R-NC-3]	R · NC		Feb 26, 2015
Rep. Miller, Jeff [R-FL-1]	R · FL		Feb 26, 2015
Rep. Stewart, Chris [R-UT-2]	R · UT		Feb 26, 2015
Rep. Wittman, Robert J. [R-VA-1]	R · VA		Feb 26, 2015
Rep. Fleischmann, Charles J. "Chuck" [R-TN-3]	R · TN		Feb 27, 2015
Rep. Roe, David P. [R-TN-1]	R · TN		Feb 27, 2015
Rep. Huelskamp, Tim [R-KS-1]	R · KS		Mar 4, 2015
Rep. Marchant, Kenny [R-TX-24]	R · TX		Mar 4, 2015
Rep. Meadows, Mark [R-NC-11]	R · NC		Mar 4, 2015
Rep. Whitfield, Ed [R-KY-1]	R · KY		Mar 4, 2015
Rep. Barletta, Lou [R-PA-11]	R · PA		Mar 10, 2015
Rep. Turner, Michael R. [R-OH-10]	R · OH		Mar 10, 2015
Rep. Gohmert, Louie [R-TX-1]	R · TX		Mar 13, 2015
Rep. Benishek, Dan [R-MI-1]	R · MI		Mar 16, 2015
Rep. Gibbs, Bob [R-OH-7]	R · OH		Mar 16, 2015
Rep. Forbes, J. Randy [R-VA-4]	R · VA		Mar 17, 2015
Rep. Black, Diane [R-TN-6]	R · TN		Mar 23, 2015
Rep. Jenkins, Lynn [R-KS-2]	R · KS		Mar 23, 2015
Rep. Johnson, Sam [R-TX-3]	R · TX		Mar 23, 2015
Rep. Posey, Bill [R-FL-8]	R · FL		Mar 23, 2015
Rep. Allen, Rick W. [R-GA-12]	R · GA		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Latta, Robert E. [R-OH-5]	R · OH		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Zinke, Ryan K. [R-MT-At Large]	R · MT		Apr 13, 2015
Rep. Babin, Brian [R-TX-36]	R · TX		Apr 21, 2015
Rep. Fincher, Stephen Lee [R-TN-8]	R · TN		Apr 21, 2015
Rep. Graves, Sam [R-MO-6]	R · MO		Apr 21, 2015
Rep. Luetkemeyer, Blaine [R-MO-3]	R · MO		Apr 21, 2015
Rep. Miller, Candice S. [R-MI-10]	R · MI		Apr 22, 2015
Rep. Westmoreland, Lynn A. [R-GA-3]	R · GA		Apr 22, 2015
Rep. Rogers, Harold [R-KY-5]	R · KY		Apr 23, 2015

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Rothfus, Keith J. [R-PA-12]	R · PA		May 1, 2015
Rep. Blackburn, Marsha [R-TN-7]	R · TN		May 13, 2015
Rep. Collins, Doug [R-GA-9]	R · GA		May 13, 2015
Rep. Nugent, Richard B. [R-FL-11]	R · FL		May 13, 2015
Rep. Price, Tom [R-GA-6]	R · GA		May 13, 2015
Rep. Hartzler, Vicky [R-MO-4]	R · MO		May 15, 2015
Rep. Foxx, Virginia [R-NC-5]	R · NC		May 22, 2015
Rep. Wilson, Joe [R-SC-2]	R · SC		May 22, 2015
Rep. Bishop, Rob [R-UT-1]	R · UT		Jun 1, 2015
Rep. Duncan, John J., Jr. [R-TN-2]	R · TN		Jun 1, 2015
Rep. Calvert, Ken [R-CA-42]	R · CA		Jun 4, 2015
Rep. Fleming, John [R-LA-4]	R · LA		Jul 7, 2015
Rep. Bilirakis, Gus M. [R-FL-12]	R · FL		Jul 8, 2015
Rep. Mooney, Alexander X. [R-WV-2]	R · WV		Jul 10, 2015
Rep. Burgess, Michael C. [R-TX-26]	R · TX		Jul 21, 2015
Rep. Perry, Scott [R-PA-4]	R · PA		Jul 28, 2015
Rep. Shuster, Bill [R-PA-9]	R · PA		Sep 9, 2015
Rep. Stivers, Steve [R-OH-15]	R · OH		Sep 9, 2015
Rep. Hice, Jody B. [R-GA-10]	R · GA		Sep 11, 2015
Rep. Weber, Randy K., Sr. [R-TX-14]	R · TX		Sep 30, 2015
Rep. Aderholt, Robert B. [R-AL-4]	R · AL		Oct 20, 2015
Rep. McCaul, Michael T. [R-TX-10]	R · TX		Oct 20, 2015
Rep. DesJarlais, Scott [R-TN-4]	R · TN		Nov 16, 2015
Rep. Loudermilk, Barry [R-GA-11]	R · GA		Nov 16, 2015
Rep. Fortenberry, Jeff [R-NE-1]	R · NE		Dec 7, 2015
Rep. Scott, Austin [R-GA-8]	R · GA		Dec 11, 2015
Rep. Brat, Dave [R-VA-7]	R · VA		Jan 5, 2016
Rep. Murphy, Tim [R-PA-18]	R · PA		Jan 5, 2016
Rep. Hudson, Richard [R-NC-8]	R · NC		Jan 13, 2016
Rep. Tiberi, Patrick J. [R-OH-12]	R · OH		Feb 2, 2016
Rep. Boustany, Charles W., Jr. [R-LA-3]	R · LA		Feb 3, 2016
Rep. Hunter, Duncan D. [R-CA-50]	R · CA		Feb 3, 2016
Rep. Harper, Gregg [R-MS-3]	R · MS		Feb 23, 2016
Rep. Collins, Chris [R-NY-27]	R · NY		Feb 25, 2016
Rep. Yoho, Ted S. [R-FL-3]	R · FL		Feb 26, 2016
Rep. Kelly, Trent [R-MS-1]	R · MS		Mar 1, 2016
Rep. Mica, John L. [R-FL-7]	R · FL		Mar 21, 2016
Rep. Cramer, Kevin [R-ND-At Large]	R · ND		Jun 7, 2016
Rep. Neugebauer, Randy [R-TX-19]	R · TX		Jun 7, 2016
Rep. Scalise, Steve [R-LA-1]	R · LA		Jun 14, 2016
Rep. Bishop, Mike [R-MI-8]	R · MI		Jun 15, 2016
Rep. Chabot, Steve [R-OH-1]	R · OH		Jun 15, 2016

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Issa, Darrell E. [R-CA-49]	R · CA		Jun 15, 2016
Rep. LaMalfa, Doug [R-CA-1]	R · CA		Jun 15, 2016
Rep. Pittenger, Robert [R-NC-9]	R · NC		Jun 15, 2016
Rep. Abraham, Ralph Lee [R-LA-5]	R · LA		Jun 16, 2016
Rep. Grothman, Glenn [R-WI-6]	R · WI		Jun 16, 2016
Rep. Rouzer, David [R-NC-7]	R · NC		Jul 6, 2016
Rep. Carter, Earl L. "Buddy" [R-GA-1]	R · GA		Jul 12, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Education and Workforce Committee	House	Referred To	Feb 13, 2015
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 16, 2015

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 S 678	Related bill	Mar 9, 2015: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Summary (as of Feb 13, 2015)

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 16, 2015:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security.
- **Feb 13, 2015:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 13, 2015:** Referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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.

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