

S 1018

Venezuela Humanitarian Assistance and Defense of Democratic Governance Act of 2017

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: May 3, 2017

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

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. (May 3, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/1018>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]

Party: Democratic • **State:** MD • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (14 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]	R · TX		May 3, 2017
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		May 3, 2017
Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA]	D · VA		May 3, 2017
Sen. McCain, John [R-AZ]	R · AZ		May 3, 2017
Sen. Menendez, Robert [D-NJ]	D · NJ		May 3, 2017
Sen. Nelson, Bill [D-FL]	D · FL		May 3, 2017
Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL]	R · FL		May 3, 2017
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		May 3, 2017
Sen. Gardner, Cory [R-CO]	R · CO		May 10, 2017
Sen. Leahy, Patrick J. [D-VT]	D · VT		May 15, 2017
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		Jun 7, 2017
Sen. Tillis, Thomas [R-NC]	R · NC		Jul 25, 2017
Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]	D · MI		Sep 13, 2017
Sen. Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]	D · WI		Jan 3, 2018

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Relations Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 3, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 2658	Related bill	Dec 11, 2017: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Summary (as of May 3, 2017)

Venezuela Humanitarian Assistance and Defense of Democratic Governance Act of 2017

This bill directs the Department of State to work through nongovernmental organizations to provide public health commodities, basic food commodities, and related technical assistance to Venezuela.

The State Department shall submit a multi-year strategy to Congress that: (1) describes how the United States will secure international support for the provision of humanitarian assistance to Venezuela, (2) identifies governments that will provide financial and technical assistance, and (3) identifies financial and technical assistance to be provided by multilateral institutions.

The State Department shall work: (1) with the Organization of American States to ensure international observation that contributes to free and transparent electoral processes in Venezuela; and (2) to defend internationally recognized human rights for the people of Venezuela, support the efforts of independent media outlets to share information beyond the limited channels made available by the Venezuelan government, facilitate open access to the Internet, and to combat government corruption.

The bill declares it to be U.S. policy to increase engagement with the governments in the Caribbean region and with the private sector and civil society in the United States and in the Caribbean.

The State Department shall report to Congress regarding the involvement in corruption of senior Venezuelan officials, including members of the National Electoral Council, the judicial system, and government security forces.

The bill amends the Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act of 2014 to: (1) direct the President to impose sanctions on any current or former official of the Venezuela government who is determined to have perpetrated significant acts of public corruption or actions or policies that undermine democratic processes or institutions, and (2) extend the requirement to impose sanctions under such Act until December 31, 2022.

Actions Timeline

- **May 3, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 3, 2017:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.