

HR 2520

BROWSER Act of 2017

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Commerce

Introduced: May 18, 2017

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection. (May 19, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/2520>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Blackburn, Marsha [R-TN-7]

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

Cosponsors (7 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Fitzpatrick, Brian K. [R-PA-8]	R · PA		May 18, 2017
Rep. Flores, Bill [R-TX-17]	R · TX		May 18, 2017
Rep. Lance, Leonard [R-NJ-7]	R · NJ		May 25, 2017
Rep. Taylor, Scott [R-VA-2]	R · VA		May 25, 2017
Rep. Lipinski, Daniel [D-IL-3]	D · IL		Jul 27, 2017
Rep. LoBiondo, Frank A. [R-NJ-2]	R · NJ		Jul 27, 2017
Rep. Duffy, Sean P. [R-WI-7]	R · WI		Jan 25, 2018

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	May 19, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Commerce

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Balancing the Rights Of Web Surfers Equally and Responsibly Act of 2017 or the BROWSER Act of 2017

This bill authorizes the Federal Trade Commission to enforce information privacy protections that require broadband Internet access services and certain websites or mobile applications providing subscription, account, purchase, or search engine services to allow users to opt-in or opt-out of the use, disclosure, or access to their user information depending on the sensitivity of the information.

Opt-in approval through the user's express consent must be obtained for the use of sensitive information that is:

- financial information,
- health information,
- about children under 13,
- Social Security numbers,
- precise geo-location information,
- content of communications,
- web browsing history, or
- history of usage of a software program or mobile application.

Opt-out approval must be provided for the use of non-sensitive user information under a method in which users are deemed to have consented if they fail to object after being provided notice of privacy policies.

The bill allows a service provider to use information without approval for specified purposes, including for services necessary for provision of the service and to initiate, render, bill, and collect for the service.

Service providers must allow users to grant, deny, or withdraw approval at any time.

The bill prohibits providers from conditioning service on a user's agreement to waive privacy rights.

Actions Timeline

- **May 19, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection.
- **May 18, 2017:** Introduced in House
- **May 18, 2017:** Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.