

HR 2658

Venezuela Humanitarian Assistance and Defense of Democratic Governance Act of 2017

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: May 25, 2017

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. (Dec 11, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/2658>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Engel, Eliot L. [D-NY-16]

Party: Democratic • **State:** NY • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (23 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Diaz-Balart, Mario [R-FL-25]	R · FL		May 25, 2017
Rep. Ros-Lehtinen, Ileana [R-FL-27]	R · FL		May 25, 2017
Rep. Sires, Albio [D-NJ-8]	D · NJ		May 25, 2017
Rep. Castro, Joaquin [D-TX-20]	D · TX		Jun 6, 2017
Rep. Cook, Paul [R-CA-8]	R · CA		Jun 6, 2017
Rep. Deutch, Theodore E. [D-FL-22]	D · FL		Jun 6, 2017
Rep. Donovan, Daniel M., Jr. [R-NY-11]	R · NY		Jun 6, 2017
Rep. Raskin, Jamie [D-MD-8]	D · MD		Jun 6, 2017
Rep. Wasserman Schultz, Debbie [D-FL-23]	D · FL		Jun 6, 2017
Rep. Coffman, Mike [R-CO-6]	R · CO		Jun 26, 2017
Rep. Espaillat, Adriano [D-NY-13]	D · NY		Jun 26, 2017
Rep. Frankel, Lois [D-FL-21]	D · FL		Jun 26, 2017
Rep. McCaul, Michael T. [R-TX-10]	R · TX		Jun 26, 2017
Rep. Torres, Norma J. [D-CA-35]	D · CA		Jun 26, 2017
Rep. Crist, Charlie [D-FL-13]	D · FL		Jul 13, 2017
Rep. Curbelo, Carlos [R-FL-26]	R · FL		Jul 13, 2017
Rep. Boyle, Brendan F. [D-PA-13]	D · PA		Jul 27, 2017
Rep. Soto, Darren [D-FL-9]	D · FL		Sep 5, 2017
Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-19]	D · CA		Sep 25, 2017
Rep. Connolly, Gerald E. [D-VA-11]	D · VA		Sep 27, 2017
Rep. Demings, Val Butler [D-FL-10]	D · FL		Sep 28, 2017
Rep. DeSantis, Ron [R-FL-6]	R · FL		Sep 28, 2017
Rep. Duncan, Jeff [R-SC-3]	R · SC		Sep 28, 2017

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Markup By	Sep 28, 2017
Foreign Relations Committee	Senate	Referred To	Dec 11, 2017
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred To	May 25, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 S 1018	Related bill	May 3, 2017: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Summary (as of May 25, 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, and (2) identifies governments that will provide financial and technical assistance.

The President shall use U.S. influence to place the humanitarian and political crisis in Venezuela on the United Nations Security Council agenda and to secure a statement urging the Venezuelan government to allow the delivery of humanitarian relief. If the government of Venezuela refuses to allow such delivery, the President shall use U.S. influence to secure a U.N. Security Council resolution: (1) directing the government of Venezuela to allow access for humanitarian agencies; and (2) calling on such government to allow the delivery of food and medicine, end human rights violations, agree to free elections, cease violence, and release all political prisoners.

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 combat government corruption.

The State Department shall report to Congress regarding: (1) the involvement in corruption of senior Venezuelan officials, including members of the National Electoral Council, the judicial system, and government security forces; and (2) Russian cooperation with the government and armed forces of Venezuela.

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

- **Dec 11, 2017:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.
- **Dec 7, 2017:** Considered as unfinished business. (CR H9745-9746)
- **Dec 7, 2017:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 388 - 29 (Roll no. 671).(text: CR 12/5/2017 H9653-9656)
- **Dec 7, 2017:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: (2/3 required): 388 - 29 (Roll no. 671). (text: CR 12/5/2017 H9653-9656)
- **Dec 7, 2017:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Dec 5, 2017:** Mr. Royce (CA) moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Dec 5, 2017:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H9653-9659)
- **Dec 5, 2017:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 2658.
- **Dec 5, 2017:** At the conclusion of debate, the Yeas and Nays were demanded and ordered. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8, rule XX, the Chair announced that further proceedings on the motion would be postponed.
- **Sep 28, 2017:** Ordered to be Reported in the Nature of a Substitute (Amended) by Voice Vote.
- **Sep 28, 2017:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **May 25, 2017:** Introduced in House
- **May 25, 2017:** Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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.