

## S 678

English Language Unity Act of 2017

**Congress:** 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Government Operations and Politics

**Introduced:** Mar 21, 2017

**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 21, 2017)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/678>

### Sponsor

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

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

### Cosponsors (6 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Boozman, John [R-AR]	R · AR		Mar 21, 2017
Sen. Cotton, Tom [R-AR]	R · AR		Mar 21, 2017
Sen. Isakson, Johnny [R-GA]	R · GA		Mar 21, 2017
Sen. Rounds, Mike [R-SD]	R · SD		Apr 26, 2017
Sen. Perdue, David [R-GA]	R · GA		Jun 15, 2017
Sen. Strange, Luther [R-AL]	R · AL		Sep 19, 2017

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 21, 2017

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 997	Related bill	<b>Mar 2, 2017:</b> Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security.

## **English Language Unity Act of 2017**

This bill establishes English as the official language of the United States.

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

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

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

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

The Department of Homeland Security shall 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**

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- **Mar 21, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 21, 2017:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.