

HR 997

English Language Unity Act of 2017

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Government Operations and Politics

Introduced: Feb 9, 2017

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

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security. (Mar 2, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/997>

Sponsor

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

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

Cosponsors (72 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Barletta, Lou [R-PA-11]	R · PA		Feb 9, 2017
Rep. Collins, Doug [R-GA-9]	R · GA		Feb 9, 2017
Rep. Duncan, Jeff [R-SC-3]	R · SC		Feb 9, 2017
Rep. Franks, Trent [R-AZ-8]	R · AZ		Feb 9, 2017
Rep. Gohmert, Louie [R-TX-1]	R · TX		Feb 9, 2017
Rep. Jones, Walter B., Jr. [R-NC-3]	R · NC		Feb 13, 2017
Rep. Massie, Thomas [R-KY-4]	R · KY		Feb 13, 2017
Rep. Loudermilk, Barry [R-GA-11]	R · GA		Feb 15, 2017
Rep. McClintock, Tom [R-CA-4]	R · CA		Feb 15, 2017
Rep. Palazzo, Steven M. [R-MS-4]	R · MS		Feb 15, 2017
Rep. Turner, Michael R. [R-OH-10]	R · OH		Feb 15, 2017
Rep. Calvert, Ken [R-CA-42]	R · CA		Feb 21, 2017
Rep. Roe, David P. [R-TN-1]	R · TN		Feb 21, 2017
Rep. Foxx, Virginia [R-NC-5]	R · NC		Feb 24, 2017
Rep. Aderholt, Robert B. [R-AL-4]	R · AL		Mar 1, 2017
Rep. Bishop, Rob [R-UT-1]	R · UT		Mar 1, 2017
Rep. Graves, Sam [R-MO-6]	R · MO		Mar 1, 2017
Rep. Banks, Jim [R-IN-3]	R · IN		Mar 8, 2017
Rep. Blackburn, Marsha [R-TN-7]	R · TN		Mar 8, 2017
Rep. Cramer, Kevin [R-ND-At Large]	R · ND		Mar 8, 2017
Rep. Fortenberry, Jeff [R-NE-1]	R · NE		Mar 8, 2017
Rep. McCaul, Michael T. [R-TX-10]	R · TX		Mar 8, 2017
Rep. Pittenger, Robert [R-NC-9]	R · NC		Mar 8, 2017
Rep. Weber, Randy K., Sr. [R-TX-14]	R · TX		Mar 8, 2017
Rep. Gibbs, Bob [R-OH-7]	R · OH		Mar 10, 2017
Rep. Stewart, Chris [R-UT-2]	R · UT		Mar 10, 2017
Rep. Kelly, Trent [R-MS-1]	R · MS		Mar 13, 2017
Rep. Luetkemeyer, Blaine [R-MO-3]	R · MO		Mar 13, 2017
Rep. Meadows, Mark [R-NC-11]	R · NC		Mar 13, 2017
Rep. Grothman, Glenn [R-WI-6]	R · WI		Mar 20, 2017
Rep. Hudson, Richard [R-NC-8]	R · NC		Mar 20, 2017
Rep. Rogers, Harold [R-KY-5]	R · KY		Mar 20, 2017
Rep. Rouzer, David [R-NC-7]	R · NC		Mar 23, 2017
Rep. Burgess, Michael C. [R-TX-26]	R · TX		Apr 5, 2017
Rep. Marchant, Kenny [R-TX-24]	R · TX		Apr 5, 2017
Rep. Brooks, Mo [R-AL-5]	R · AL		Apr 25, 2017
Rep. Hice, Jody B. [R-GA-10]	R · GA		Apr 25, 2017
Rep. Stivers, Steve [R-OH-15]	R · OH		Apr 26, 2017
Rep. Scalise, Steve [R-LA-1]	R · LA		Apr 28, 2017
Rep. Posey, Bill [R-FL-8]	R · FL		May 8, 2017
Rep. Duncan, John J., Jr. [R-TN-2]	R · TN		Jun 6, 2017

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Mooney, Alexander X. [R-WV-2]	R · WV		Jun 6, 2017
Rep. Bilirakis, Gus M. [R-FL-12]	R · FL		Jun 7, 2017
Rep. Carter, Earl L. "Buddy" [R-GA-1]	R · GA		Jun 20, 2017
Rep. Harper, Gregg [R-MS-3]	R · MS		Jun 20, 2017
Rep. Yoho, Ted S. [R-FL-3]	R · FL		Jun 20, 2017
Rep. Collins, Chris [R-NY-27]	R · NY		Jun 23, 2017
Rep. Womack, Steve [R-AR-3]	R · AR		Jun 26, 2017
Rep. Allen, Rick W. [R-GA-12]	R · GA		Jun 28, 2017
Rep. Ferguson, A. Drew, IV [R-GA-3]	R · GA		Jun 28, 2017
Rep. Perry, Scott [R-PA-4]	R · PA		Jul 11, 2017
Rep. Rogers, Mike D. [R-AL-3]	R · AL		Jul 13, 2017
Rep. Rooney, Francis [R-FL-19]	R · FL		Jul 17, 2017
Rep. Wittman, Robert J. [R-VA-1]	R · VA		Jul 25, 2017
Rep. Rohrabacher, Dana [R-CA-48]	R · CA		Aug 8, 2017
Rep. Byrne, Bradley [R-AL-1]	R · AL		Aug 29, 2017
Rep. Babin, Brian [R-TX-36]	R · TX		Sep 27, 2017
Rep. Johnson, Sam [R-TX-3]	R · TX		Sep 28, 2017
Rep. Brat, Dave [R-VA-7]	R · VA		Oct 2, 2017
Rep. Norman, Ralph [R-SC-5]	R · SC		Oct 19, 2017
Rep. Mitchell, Paul [R-MI-10]	R · MI		Oct 25, 2017
Rep. Rokita, Todd [R-IN-4]	R · IN		Oct 25, 2017
Rep. Abraham, Ralph Lee [R-LA-5]	R · LA		Nov 28, 2017
Rep. Long, Billy [R-MO-7]	R · MO		Jan 8, 2018
Rep. Smith, Adrian [R-NE-3]	R · NE		Jan 8, 2018
Rep. Handel, Karen C. [R-GA-6]	R · GA		Jan 29, 2018
Rep. LaMalfa, Doug [R-CA-1]	R · CA		May 24, 2018
Rep. Wilson, Joe [R-SC-2]	R · SC		May 24, 2018
Rep. Jenkins, Lynn [R-KS-2]	R · KS		Jun 13, 2018
Rep. Black, Diane [R-TN-6]	R · TN		Jul 23, 2018
Rep. Budd, Ted [R-NC-13]	R · NC		Sep 26, 2018
Rep. Bergman, Jack [R-MI-1]	R · MI		Oct 26, 2018

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Education and Workforce Committee	House	Referred To	Feb 9, 2017
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 2, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 S 678	Related bill	Mar 21, 2017: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Summary (as of Feb 9, 2017)

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 bill 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

- **Mar 2, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security.
- **Feb 9, 2017:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 9, 2017:** 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.