

## HR 1608

Federal Advisory Committee Act Amendments of 2019

**Congress:** 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Government Operations and Politics

**Introduced:** Mar 7, 2019

**Current Status:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governm

**Latest Action:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. (Mar 13, 2019)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/1608>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Clay, Wm. Lacy [D-MO-1]

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

### Cosponsors

*No cosponsors are listed for this bill.*

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Budget Committee	House	Referred To	Mar 7, 2019
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 13, 2019
Oversight and Government Reform Committee	House	Referred To	Mar 7, 2019
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred To	Mar 7, 2019

### Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Government Operations and Politics

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 S 1220	Identical bill	<b>Apr 11, 2019:</b> Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

## Federal Advisory Committee Act Amendments of 2019

This bill revises provisions regarding federal advisory committees, including to (1) require designation of committee members as special government employees or representatives, (2) apply the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) to subcommittees and subgroups, and (3) require publication of certain information about advisory committees.

The bill requires appointments to advisory committees to be made without regard to political affiliation or campaign activity, unless required by federal statute. Each agency, prior to appointing members to an advisory committee, must solicit nominations for potential committee members. The agency shall solicit nominations at least once every two years.

The bill provides statutory authority for the designation of advisory committee members as special government employees (if they are appointed to exercise their individual best judgement) or representatives (if they are appointed to represent a nongovernment entity). Agencies may not designate committee members as representatives to avoid federal ethics rules.

Each agency shall make available on its website specified information about each of the agency's advisory committees, including membership, meeting minutes, and notices of future meetings. The General Services Administration must also publish this information.

The bill revises requirements for Advisory Committee Management Officers, including to require them to be senior officials with expertise in implementing FACA.

The Government Accountability Office shall report on agency compliance with FACA.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Mar 13, 2019:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.
- **Mar 12, 2019:** Ms. Norton moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill.
- **Mar 12, 2019:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H2667-2671)
- **Mar 12, 2019:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 1608.
- **Mar 12, 2019:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by voice vote.(text: CR H2667-2670)
- **Mar 12, 2019:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H2667-2670)
- **Mar 12, 2019:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Mar 7, 2019:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 7, 2019:** Referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and the Budget, 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.