

S 1762

Foreign Agents Disclosure and Registration Enhancement Act of 2019

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: Jun 10, 2019

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. (Jun 10, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/1762>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Grassley, Chuck [R-IA]

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

Cosponsors (9 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Cornyn, John [R-TX]	R · TX		Jun 10, 2019
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Jun 10, 2019
Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL]	R · FL		Jun 10, 2019
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		Jun 10, 2019
Sen. Young, Todd [R-IN]	R · IN		Jun 10, 2019
Sen. Graham, Lindsey [R-SC]	R · SC		Oct 24, 2019
Sen. Warner, Mark R. [D-VA]	D · VA		Dec 19, 2019
Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT]	D · CT		Jan 15, 2020
Sen. Whitehouse, Sheldon [D-RI]	D · RI		May 4, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Relations Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jun 10, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Foreign Agents Disclosure and Registration Enhancement Act of 2019

This bill provides the Department of Justice (DOJ) with a mechanism to demand evidence for investigating compliance with foreign-agent disclosure requirements and increases penalties relating to such requirements.

DOJ may issue civil investigative demands to a person who may have information relevant to an investigation related to the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 (FARA). Such demands may be for documents, written answers to questions, or oral testimony. The bill prescribes various procedures and requirements, such as minimum notice periods when seeking oral testimony. Investigative demands may be enforced or challenged in district court.

Such investigative demands may not require the production of information that would be protected from disclosure under (1) the rules governing grand jury subpoenas, or (2) the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to the extent the rules are consistent with this bill.

The bill increases the maximum criminal fine for certain FARA violations from \$10,000 to \$200,000. It shall be unlawful for an agent of a foreign principal to willfully fail to disclose being a FARA-registered agent before or during a meeting with a Member of Congress (or with staff of a Member or congressional committee).

The bill provides for various civil penalties for failing to meet agent registration requirements. The foreign principal of a penalized agent may not pay the imposed fines.

The Government Accountability Office shall (1) analyze the effectiveness of FARA enforcement, and (2) audit the exemption to the Lobbying Disclosure Act for FARA-registered agents.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 10, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
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