

## HR 5733

### FIRM Act

**Congress:** 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** International Affairs

**Introduced:** Jan 30, 2020

**Current Status:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary. (Jan 30, 2020)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/5733>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Moulton, Seth [D-MA-6]

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

### Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Banks, Jim [R-IN-3]	R · IN		Feb 21, 2020

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred To	Jan 30, 2020

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

International Affairs

### Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

## Foreign Influence Registration Modernization Act or the FIRM Act

This bill revises provisions related to the registration of foreign agents, and it transfers certain oversight duties regarding lobbying to the Department of Justice (DOJ).

Current law exempts from foreign agent registration requirements any person engaging only in religious, scholastic, or scientific pursuits. The bill eliminates this exemption for agents of foreign principals that are known violators of human rights.

The bill also narrows the definition of *foreign principal*, waiving registration requirements for agents of foreign enterprises that are not under the control or direction of a foreign government or political party.

The bill further requires registration statements and supplements to be filed in a digitized format and stored in a searchable, sortable, and downloadable database.

In addition, the bill authorizes DOJ to enact a civil penalty of up to \$200,000 for a violation of foreign agent registration requirements.

Lastly, the bill transfers administration of lobbyist registration, reporting, disclosure and enforcement, and penalties from Congress to DOJ.

### Actions Timeline

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- **Jan 30, 2020:** Introduced in House
- **Jan 30, 2020:** Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.