

HR 1251

Cyber Diplomacy Act of 2021

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: Feb 23, 2021

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

Latest Action: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. (Apr 22, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1251>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. McCaul, Michael T. [R-TX-10]

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

Cosponsors (10 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Gallagher, Mike [R-WI-8]	R · WI		Feb 23, 2021
Rep. Keating, William R. [D-MA-9]	D · MA		Feb 23, 2021
Rep. Kinzinger, Adam [R-IL-16]	R · IL		Feb 23, 2021
Rep. Langevin, James R. [D-RI-2]	D · RI		Feb 23, 2021
Rep. Meeks, Gregory W. [D-NY-5]	D · NY		Feb 23, 2021
Rep. Castro, Joaquin [D-TX-20]	D · TX		Feb 25, 2021
Rep. Issa, Darrell E. [R-CA-50]	R · CA		Feb 25, 2021
Rep. Sherman, Brad [D-CA-30]	D · CA		Feb 25, 2021
Rep. Spanberger, Abigail Davis [D-VA-7]	D · VA		Feb 25, 2021
Rep. Fitzpatrick, Brian K. [R-PA-1]	R · PA		Apr 13, 2021

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Markup By	Feb 25, 2021
Foreign Relations Committee	Senate	Referred To	Apr 22, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 8788	Related bill	Sep 9, 2022: Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.
117 HRES 330	Related bill	Apr 20, 2021: Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.

Cyber Diplomacy Act of 2021

This bill establishes requirements related to diplomatic engagement with foreign countries on matters of U.S. cyberspace policy.

Specifically, the bill establishes the Bureau of International Cyberspace Policy within the Department of State to advise the State Department on cyberspace issues and lead diplomatic efforts on issues related to international cybersecurity, internet access and freedom, and international cyber threats.

The bureau must undertake specified duties and responsibilities to implement the stated U.S. policy of working internationally to promote an open, interoperable, and secure internet governed by a multi-stakeholder model that (1) promotes human rights, democracy, and rule of law; and (2) respects privacy and guards against deception, fraud, and theft.

The President must devise a strategy for U.S. engagement with foreign governments on international norms related to responsible state behavior in cyberspace. Further, the President is encouraged to enter into executive arrangements with foreign governments that support U.S. cyberspace policy.

In addition, annual country reports on human rights practices must include assessments of freedom of expression in each country with respect to electronic information, and the Government Accountability Office must report on U.S. diplomatic processes and other efforts with foreign countries to advance U.S. interests in cyberspace.

Actions Timeline

- **Apr 22, 2021:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.
- **Apr 20, 2021:** Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 330, proceedings on H.R. 1251 are considered vacated.
- **Apr 20, 2021:** Passed/agreed to in House: Pursuant to section 6 of H. Res. 330, and the motion offered by Mr. Hoyer, the following bills passed under suspension of the rules: H.R. 367; H.R. 370; H.R. 396; H.R. 397, as amended; H.R. 408; H.R. 490; H.R. 965, as amended; H.R. 1251, as amended; H.R. 1395; H.R. 1491; H.R. 1528; H.R. 1532; H.R. 1565; H.R. 1602; and H.R. 2523, as amended; and the following resolution was agreed to under suspension of the rules: H. Res. 124, as amended.(consideration: CR H1979-1994; text: CR H1984-1988)
- **Apr 20, 2021:** Pursuant to section 6 of H. Res. 330, and the motion offered by Mr. Hoyer, the following bills passed under suspension of the rules: H.R. 367; H.R. 370; H.R. 396; H.R. 397, as amended; H.R. 408; H.R. 490; H.R. 965, as amended; H.R. 1251, as amended; H.R. 1395; H.R. 1491; H.R. 1528; H.R. 1532; H.R. 1565; H.R. 1602; and H.R. 2523, as amended; and the following resolution was agreed to under suspension of the rules: H. Res. 124, as amended. (consideration: CR H1979-1994; text: CR H1984-1988)
- **Apr 19, 2021:** Mr. Meeks moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **Apr 19, 2021:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H1930-1934; text: CR H1930-1933)
- **Apr 19, 2021:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 1251.
- **Apr 19, 2021:** At the conclusion of debate, the Yeas and Nays were demanded and ordered. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8, rule XX, the Chair announced that further proceedings on the motion would be postponed.
- **Feb 25, 2021:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Feb 25, 2021:** Ordered to be Reported in the Nature of a Substitute (Amended) by Voice Vote.
- **Feb 23, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 23, 2021:** Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.