

HR 1535

Foreign Influence Transparency Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: Mar 3, 2021

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties. (May 18, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/1535>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Wilson, Joe [R-SC-2]

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

Cosponsors (34 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Allen, Rick W. [R-GA-12]	R · GA		Mar 3, 2021
Rep. Babin, Brian [R-TX-36]	R · TX		Mar 3, 2021
Rep. Bilirakis, Gus M. [R-FL-12]	R · FL		Mar 3, 2021
Rep. Bishop, Dan [R-NC-9]	R · NC		Mar 3, 2021
Rep. Brooks, Mo [R-AL-5]	R · AL		Mar 3, 2021
Rep. Burchett, Tim [R-TN-2]	R · TN		Mar 3, 2021
Rep. Burgess, Michael C. [R-TX-26]	R · TX		Mar 3, 2021
Rep. Carter, John R. [R-TX-31]	R · TX		Mar 3, 2021
Rep. DesJarlais, Scott [R-TN-4]	R · TN		Mar 3, 2021
Rep. Dunn, Neal P. [R-FL-2]	R · FL		Mar 3, 2021
Rep. Fitzgerald, Scott [R-WI-5]	R · WI		Mar 3, 2021
Rep. Gaetz, Matt [R-FL-1]	R · FL		Mar 3, 2021
Rep. Gibbs, Bob [R-OH-7]	R · OH		Mar 3, 2021
Rep. Gonzalez, Anthony [R-OH-16]	R · OH		Mar 3, 2021
Rep. Gooden, Lance [R-TX-5]	R · TX		Mar 3, 2021
Rep. Guest, Michael [R-MS-3]	R · MS		Mar 3, 2021
Rep. Harris, Andy [R-MD-1]	R · MD		Mar 3, 2021
Rep. Huizenga, Bill [R-MI-2]	R · MI		Mar 3, 2021
Rep. Issa, Darrell E. [R-CA-50]	R · CA		Mar 3, 2021
Rep. Lamborn, Doug [R-CO-5]	R · CO		Mar 3, 2021
Rep. Loudermilk, Barry [R-GA-11]	R · GA		Mar 3, 2021
Rep. Mast, Brian J. [R-FL-18]	R · FL		Mar 3, 2021
Rep. Norman, Ralph [R-SC-5]	R · SC		Mar 3, 2021
Rep. Posey, Bill [R-FL-8]	R · FL		Mar 3, 2021
Rep. Rice, Tom [R-SC-7]	R · SC		Mar 3, 2021
Rep. Rouzer, David [R-NC-7]	R · NC		Mar 3, 2021
Rep. Stefanik, Elise M. [R-NY-21]	R · NY		Mar 3, 2021
Rep. Timmons, William R. IV [R-SC-4]	R · SC		Mar 3, 2021
Rep. Turner, Michael R. [R-OH-10]	R · OH		Mar 3, 2021
Rep. Weber, Randy K., Sr. [R-TX-14]	R · TX		Mar 3, 2021
Rep. Calvert, Ken [R-CA-42]	R · CA		Mar 8, 2021
Rep. Hartzler, Vicky [R-MO-4]	R · MO		Mar 8, 2021
Rep. Steube, W. Gregory [R-FL-17]	R · FL		Mar 8, 2021
Rep. Diaz-Balart, Mario [R-FL-25]	R · FL		Mar 18, 2021

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Education and Workforce Committee	House	Referred To	Mar 3, 2021
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	May 18, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 S 577	Identical bill	Mar 3, 2021: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Summary (as of Mar 3, 2021)

Foreign Influence Transparency Act

This bill addresses foreign influence in higher education and in certain other academic, religious, and artistic pursuits.

Current law exempts from foreign agent registration requirements a person engaging in activities in furtherance of religious, scholastic, academic, or scientific pursuits or of the fine arts. The bill specifies that this exemption applies only to those activities that do not promote the political agenda of a foreign government.

Under current law, an institution of higher education (IHE) must disclose to the Department of Education (ED) a gift or contract that is from a foreign source and is valued at \$250,000 or more, considered alone or in combination with all other gifts from or contracts with the foreign source. The bill instead requires an IHE to disclose such a gift or contract that is valued at \$50,000 or more, considered alone or in combination with all other gifts or contracts. An IHE must include in its disclosure report the contents of any such contract and make the contents available for public disclosure.

Additionally, an IHE that enters into an agreement with a Confucius Institute (i.e., a cultural institute directly or indirectly funded by the Chinese government) must immediately make available the full text of the agreement to the public, ED, and Congress.

Finally, the bill prohibits an IHE that does not comply with these disclosure requirements from enrolling foreign students under the Student and Exchange Visitor Program.

Actions Timeline

- **May 18, 2021:** Referred to the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties.
- **Mar 3, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 3, 2021:** Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, 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.