

HR 3145

Freedom to Work Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Government Operations and Politics

Introduced: May 12, 2021

Current Status: Referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Education and

Latest Action: Referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, 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. (May 12, 2021)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/3145>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Harshbarger, Diana [R-TN-1]

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

Cosponsors (13 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Banks, Jim [R-IN-3]	R · IN		May 12, 2021
Rep. Budd, Ted [R-NC-13]	R · NC		May 12, 2021
Rep. Issa, Darrell E. [R-CA-50]	R · CA		May 12, 2021
Rep. Jackson, Ronny [R-TX-13]	R · TX		May 12, 2021
Rep. LaMalfa, Doug [R-CA-1]	R · CA		May 12, 2021
Rep. Lesko, Debbie [R-AZ-8]	R · AZ		May 12, 2021
Rep. Allen, Rick W. [R-GA-12]	R · GA		May 18, 2021
Rep. Perry, Scott [R-PA-10]	R · PA		May 18, 2021
Rep. Hill, J. French [R-AR-2]	R · AR		May 25, 2021
Rep. Mooney, Alexander X. [R-WV-2]	R · WV		May 25, 2021
Rep. Steube, W. Gregory [R-FL-17]	R · FL		May 25, 2021
Rep. Bishop, Dan [R-NC-9]	R · NC		Jun 4, 2021
Rep. Miller, Carol D. [R-WV-3]	R · WV		Jun 22, 2021

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Education and Workforce Committee	House	Referred To	May 12, 2021
Oversight and Government Reform Committee	House	Referred To	May 12, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of May 12, 2021)

Freedom to Work Act

This bill requires federal agencies to review and reduce occupational licensing requirements.

Specifically, each executive agency must review relevant laws, policies, and regulations that institute occupational licensing requirements for agency positions, or that cause a state, local, or tribal government to adopt licensing requirements for positions within their jurisdictions, and identify possible changes to eliminate such requirements or to provide alternatives that are the least restrictive while also maintaining consumer protection. Agencies must implement changes to the extent permissible under law.

The bill also requires states to describe their plans to reduce occupational licensing barriers as part of their unified state plans for programs under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

Several executive orders have required similar review of occupational licensing requirements. For example, the executive order titled *Increasing Economic and Geographic Mobility*, which was issued on December 14, 2020, outlined certain principles for occupational licensing requirements, including that such requirements should be the least restrictive to competition while also maintaining consumer protection; the order directed executive agencies to review and identify changes to their regulations, guidance, and policies in accordance with these principles. Additionally, the executive order titled *Promoting Competition in the American Economy*, which was issued on July 9, 2021, directs the Federal Trade Commission to consider addressing practices that inhibit competition, including unfair occupational licensing restrictions, through regulations.

Actions Timeline

- **May 12, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **May 12, 2021:** Referred to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, 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.