

HR 5557

DEMOCRACIA Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: Oct 12, 2021

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship. (Nov 1, 2022)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/5557>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Donalds, Byron [R-FL-19]

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

Cosponsors (8 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Babin, Brian [R-TX-36]	R · TX		Oct 12, 2021
Rep. Diaz-Balart, Mario [R-FL-25]	R · FL		Oct 12, 2021
Rep. Gimenez, Carlos A. [R-FL-26]	R · FL		Oct 12, 2021
Rep. Malliotakis, Nicole [R-NY-11]	R · NY		Oct 12, 2021
Rep. Mooney, Alexander X. [R-WV-2]	R · WV		Oct 12, 2021
Rep. Salazar, Maria Elvira [R-FL-27]	R · FL		Oct 12, 2021
Rep. Gonzalez, Anthony [R-OH-16]	R · OH		Oct 28, 2021
Resident Commissioner González-Colón, Jenniffer [R-PR-At Large]	R · PR		Oct 28, 2021

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Referred To	Oct 12, 2021
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Nov 1, 2022
Rules Committee	House	Referred To	Oct 12, 2021

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 S 2990	Related bill	Oct 18, 2021: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Denying Earnings to the Military Oligarchy in Cuba and Restricting Activities of the Cuban Intelligence Apparatus Act or the DEMOCRACIA Act

This bill provides for asset- and visa-blocking sanctions for conduct relating to Cuba. It also establishes an interagency task force to facilitate access to uncensored internet in Cuba.

The President must sanction foreign persons that provide financial support to Cuban government sectors involved in human rights abuses or terrorism (e.g., the defense sector). This includes foreign persons that (1) are military contractors or mercenaries operating on behalf of the Cuban government, or (2) violate laws restricting trade with Cuba. Specified transactions, including remittances to immediate family members (subject to some limitations) and payments related to U.S. military and diplomatic sites, are not subject to these sanctions.

The President must also sanction (1) foreign persons complicit or engaged in human rights abuses or corruption, (2) foreign persons supporting such conduct, and (3) specified Cuban government officials and their affiliates. The bill provides humanitarian exceptions to these sanctions, for example, donating food or agricultural commodities to organizations or individuals unaffiliated with the Cuban government.

The President may not license sanctionable conduct, and U.S. persons seeking to engage in a permitted transaction must submit a written request to the Office of Foreign Asset Control of the Department of the Treasury. The President may waive the sanctions in the interest of U.S. national security.

To terminate the sanctions, the President must certify that the Cuban government has legalized all political activities and taken other steps to promote political rights and freedoms. Congress must then enact a joint resolution approving the termination.

Actions Timeline

- **Nov 1, 2022:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.
- **Oct 12, 2021:** Introduced in House
- **Oct 12, 2021:** Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Rules, 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.