

## HR 140

### Protecting Speech from Government Interference Act

**Congress:** 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Government Operations and Politics

**Introduced:** Jan 9, 2023

**Current Status:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governm

**Latest Action:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. (Mar 14, 2023)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/140>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Comer, James [R-KY-1]

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

### Cosponsors (16 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Jordan, Jim [R-OH-4]	R · OH		Jan 9, 2023
Rep. McMorris Rodgers, Cathy [R-WA-5]	R · WA		Jan 9, 2023
Rep. Grothman, Glenn [R-WI-6]	R · WI		Feb 1, 2023
Rep. Biggs, Andy [R-AZ-5]	R · AZ		Feb 27, 2023
Rep. Burchett, Tim [R-TN-2]	R · TN		Feb 27, 2023
Rep. Edwards, Chuck [R-NC-11]	R · NC		Feb 27, 2023
Rep. Fry, Russell [R-SC-7]	R · SC		Feb 27, 2023
Rep. Gosar, Paul A. [R-AZ-9]	R · AZ		Feb 27, 2023
Rep. Greene, Marjorie Taylor [R-GA-14]	R · GA		Feb 27, 2023
Rep. Higgins, Clay [R-LA-3]	R · LA		Feb 27, 2023
Rep. Langworthy, Nicholas A. [R-NY-23]	R · NY		Feb 27, 2023
Rep. LaTurner, Jake [R-KS-2]	R · KS		Feb 27, 2023
Rep. Luna, Anna Paulina [R-FL-13]	R · FL		Feb 27, 2023
Rep. Mace, Nancy [R-SC-1]	R · SC		Feb 27, 2023
Rep. McClain, Lisa C. [R-MI-9]	R · MI		Feb 27, 2023
Rep. Sessions, Pete [R-TX-17]	R · TX		Feb 27, 2023

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 14, 2023
Oversight and Government Reform Committee	House	Unknown	Mar 9, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Government Operations and Politics

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HRES 199	Related bill	<b>Mar 8, 2023:</b> Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.

Summary (as of Mar 9, 2023)

Protecting Speech from Government Interference Act

This bill generally prohibits federal employees from censoring the speech of others while acting in an official capacity.

Specifically, the bill prohibits employees of executive agencies or who are otherwise in the competitive service from (1) using their official authority to censor a private entity; or (2) engaging in censorship of a private entity while on duty, wearing a uniform, or using official government property. The bill provides certain exceptions for law enforcement, subject to specified reporting requirements.

Employees are subject to disciplinary action, civil penalties, or both for violations.

The bill defines *censor* or *censorship* to mean influencing or coercing, or directing another to influence or coerce, for the removal of lawful speech, the addition of disclaimers, or the restriction of access with respect to any interactive computer service (e.g., social media).

## Actions Timeline

---

- **Mar 14, 2023:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.
- **Mar 9, 2023:** Considered as unfinished business. (consideration: CR H1219-1221)
- **Mar 9, 2023:** The House resolved into Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for further consideration.
- **Mar 9, 2023:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 199, the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the Rose amendment No. 9.
- **Mar 9, 2023:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 199, the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the Rose amendment No. 10.
- **Mar 9, 2023:** The House rose from the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union to report H.R. 140.
- **Mar 9, 2023:** The previous question was ordered pursuant to the rule.
- **Mar 9, 2023:** The House adopted the amendment in the nature of a substitute as agreed to by the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.
- **Mar 9, 2023:** Mr. Landsman moved to recommit to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability. (text: CR H1221)
- **Mar 9, 2023:** The previous question on the motion to recommit was ordered pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX.
- **Mar 9, 2023:** POSTPONED PROCEEDINGS - At the conclusion of debate on H.R. 140, the Chair put the question on the motion to recommit the bill and by voice vote announced that the noes had prevailed. Mr. Landsman demanded the yeas and nays and the Chair postponed further proceedings on the motion to recommit until a time to be announced.
- **Mar 9, 2023:** Considered as unfinished business. (consideration: CR H1230-1232)
- **Mar 9, 2023:** On motion to recommit Failed by the Yeas and Nays: 204 - 218 (Roll no. 140).
- **Mar 9, 2023:** Passed/agreed to in House: On passage Passed by the Yeas and Nays: 219 - 206 (Roll no. 141).
- **Mar 9, 2023:** On passage Passed by the Yeas and Nays: 219 - 206 (Roll no. 141).
- **Mar 9, 2023:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Mar 8, 2023:** Considered under the provisions of rule H. Res. 199. (consideration: CR H1180-1194; text: CR H1185-1186)
- **Mar 8, 2023:** Rule provides for consideration of H.R. 140, H.J. Res. 27 and S. 619. The resolution provides for consideration of H.R. 140, under a structured rule. The resolution provides for consideration of H.J. Res. 27 and S. 619, under closed rules. General debate is limited to one hour of debate on all measures.
- **Mar 8, 2023:** House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union pursuant to H. Res. 199 and Rule XVIII.
- **Mar 8, 2023:** The Speaker designated the Honorable Mike Flood to act as Chairman of the Committee.
- **Mar 8, 2023:** GENERAL DEBATE - The Committee of the Whole proceeded with one hour of general debate on H.R. 140.
- **Mar 8, 2023:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 199, the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the Clyde amendment No. 1.
- **Mar 8, 2023:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 199, the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the Comer amendment No. 2.
- **Mar 8, 2023:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 199, the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the Bishop (NC) amendment No. 3.
- **Mar 8, 2023:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 199, the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the Perry amendment No. 4.
- **Mar 8, 2023:** POSTPONED PROCEEDINGS - At the conclusion of debate on the Perry amendment No. 4, the Chair put the question on adoption of the amendment and by voice vote, announced that the ayes had prevailed. Mr. Fitzpatrick demanded a recorded vote and the Chair postponed further proceedings on the question of adoption of the amendment until a time to be announced.
- **Mar 8, 2023:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 199, the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the Good (VA) amendment No. 5.
- **Mar 8, 2023:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H. Res. 199, the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the Jackson Lee amendment No. 6.
- **Mar 8, 2023:** POSTPONED PROCEEDINGS - At the conclusion of debate on the Jackson Lee amendment No. 6, the Chair put the question on adoption of the amendment and by voice vote, announced that the noes had prevailed. Ms. Jackson Lee demanded a recorded vote and the Chair postponed further proceedings on the question of adoption of

the amendment until a time to be announced.

- **Mar 8, 2023:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H.Res. 199, the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the Ogles amendment No. 7.
- **Mar 8, 2023:** DEBATE - Pursuant to the provisions of H.Res. 199, the Committee of the Whole proceeded with 10 minutes of debate on the Ogles amendment No. 8.
- **Mar 8, 2023:** Considered as unfinished business. (consideration: CR H1196-1198)
- **Mar 8, 2023:** The House resolved into Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for further consideration.
- **Mar 8, 2023:** Mr. Comer moved that the committee rise.
- **Mar 8, 2023:** On motion that the committee rise Agreed to by voice vote.
- **Mar 8, 2023:** Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union rises leaving H.R. 140 as unfinished business.
- **Mar 7, 2023:** Rules Committee Resolution H. Res. 199 Reported to House. Rule provides for consideration of H.R. 140, H.J. Res. 27 and S. 619. The resolution provides for consideration of H.R. 140, under a structured rule. The resolution provides for consideration of H.J.Res. 27 and S. 619, under closed rules. General debate is limited to one hour of debate on all measures.
- **Mar 2, 2023:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 2.
- **Mar 2, 2023:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Oversight and Accountability. H. Rept. 118-5.
- **Feb 28, 2023:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Feb 28, 2023:** Ordered to be Reported in the Nature of a Substitute (Amended) by the Yeas and Nays: 24 - 20.
- **Jan 9, 2023:** Introduced in House
- **Jan 9, 2023:** Referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability.