

HR 3172

Vietnam Human Rights Act

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: May 10, 2023

Current Status: Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for

Latest Action: Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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 10, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/3172>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Smith, Christopher H. [R-NJ-4]

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

Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Correa, J. Luis [D-CA-46]	D · CA		May 10, 2023
Rep. Lofgren, Zoe [D-CA-18]	D · CA		May 10, 2023
Rep. Steel, Michelle [R-CA-45]	R · CA		May 10, 2023
Rep. Khanna, Ro [D-CA-17]	D · CA		Aug 8, 2023

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Referred To	May 10, 2023
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred To	May 10, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Vietnam Human Rights Act

This bill requires actions related to human rights in Vietnam and addresses related issues.

The Department of State must assist eligible individuals and entities working to secure the release of political and religious prisoners in Vietnam.

The Office of Internet Freedom within the U.S. Agency for Global Media and the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor within the State Department shall prioritize (1) the immediate distribution of censorship circumvention tools for computers and smartphones in Vietnam; and (2) projects to ensure the safety and privacy of bloggers, journalists, and human rights defenders in Vietnam.

Foreign assistance may not be used to assist any unit of the Vietnamese government engaged in cyberespionage activities.

The State Department may establish programs to (1) monitor and halt sex trafficking of women from Vietnam and other Asian countries, and (2) address Vietnam's growing sex-ratio disparity.

The bill also requires various reports to Congress, including reports on (1) persons subject to U.S. sanctions for human rights violations in Vietnam, (2) a strategy to promote internet freedom in Vietnam, and (3) cyberespionage activities sanctioned by the Vietnamese government targeting Vietnamese dissidents and human rights advocates living outside of Vietnam.

Actions Timeline

- **May 10, 2023:** Introduced in House
- **May 10, 2023:** Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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.