

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2037

To reauthorize the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 27, 2015

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To reauthorize the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “United States Commis-
5 sion on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization
6 Act of 2015”.

7 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT AND COMPOSITION.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 201 of
9 the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22
10 U.S.C. 6431) is amended by inserting before the period

1 at the end the following: “, which shall be an independent
2 Federal Government advisory body”.

3 (b) SELECTION.—Subparagraph (A) of section
4 201(b)(2) of the International Religious Freedom Act of
5 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431(b)(2)) is amended by inserting at
6 the end the following new sentence: “The Commission as
7 a whole shall also have expertise on the variety of faiths
8 practiced around the world.”.

9 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—Subsection (b)(3) of section 201
10 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22
11 U.S.C. 6431) is amended by striking “The appointments
12 required by paragraph (1) shall be made not later than
13 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.”
14 and inserting the following: “An appointment required by
15 subparagraph (B) of paragraph (1) should be made within
16 90 days of a vacancy on the Commission.”.

17 (d) VACANCIES.—Subsection (g) of section 201 of the
18 International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C.
19 6431) is amended by striking the second sentence.

20 **SEC. 3. TRAINING FOR FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS.**

21 Subsection (a) of section 708 of the Foreign Service
22 Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4028) is amended—

23 (1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),

24 (A) by striking “and the director” and in-

25 serting “the director”; and

1 (B) inserting “and members of the United
2 States Commission on International Religious
3 Freedom,” after “Training Center,”; and
4 (2) in paragraph (2)—

5 (A) by striking “and the various” and in-
6 serting “the various”; and

7 (B) by inserting “, the relationship be-
8 tween religious freedom and security, and the
9 role of religious freedom in United States for-
10 eign policy” after “violations of religious free-
11 dom”.

12 **SEC. 4. COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 204 of
14 the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22
15 U.S.C. 6432b) is amended in the second sentence, by in-
16 serting “voting” after “nine”.

17 (b) COMPENSATION.—Subsection (b) of section 204
18 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22
19 U.S.C. 6432b) is amended by inserting “voting members
20 of the” after “The”.

21 (c) SECURITY CLEARANCES.—Subsection (e) of sec-
22 tion 204 of the International Religious Freedom Act of
23 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6432b) is amended by adding at the end
24 the following new sentence: “The Department of State is
25 encouraged to allow Commissioners and Commission staff

1 with the appropriate security clearance access to classified
2 information, in order to fulfill the duties and responsibil-
3 ities of their positions.”.

4 (d) APPLICATION OF ANTIDISCRIMINATION LAWS.—
5 Subsection (g) of section 204 of the International Reli-
6 gious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6432b) is amended
7 by inserting “, including discrimination on the basis of re-
8 ligion” after “employment discrimination”.

9 **SEC. 5. STANDARDS OF CONDUCT AND DISCLOSURE.**

10 Paragraph (2) of section 208(d)(2) of the Inter-
11 national Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C.
12 6435a(d)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
13 lowing new subparagraph:

14 “(H) Intern, fellowship, and volunteer pro-
15 grams that are primarily of educational benefit
16 to the intern, fellow, or volunteer. Sponsoring
17 private parties may provide compensation and
18 benefits to interns, fellows, and volunteers, pro-
19 vided that no conflict of interest arises. The
20 number, duration, and funding source of any
21 such internship, fellowship, or volunteer pro-
22 grams shall be described in the annual financial
23 report required by subsection (e).”.

1 **SEC. 6. EXTENSION AND TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.**

2 The International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 is
3 amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a) of section 207 (22 U.S.C.
5 6435), by striking “2015” and inserting “2021”;
6 and

7 (2) in section 209 (22 U.S.C. 6436), by striking
8 “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September
9 30, 2021”.

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