

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2078

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## AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

5 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

6 It is the sense of the Congress that the United States  
7 Commission on International Religious Freedom—

8 (1) was created by Congress to independently  
9 assess and to accurately and unflinchingly describe  
10 threats to religious freedom around the world; and

11 (2) in carrying out its prescribed duties, should  
12 use its authorized powers to ensure that efforts by  
13 the United States to advance religious freedom  
14 abroad are timely, appropriate to the circumstances,  
15 prudent, and effective.

16 **SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY.**

17 Section 209 of the International Religious Freedom  
18 Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6436) is amended by striking  
19 “September 30, 2015” and inserting “September 30,  
20 2019”.

21 **SEC. 4. STRATEGIC PLAN.**

22 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

23 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
24 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-  
25 mittees” means—

1 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of  
2 the Senate;

3 (B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of  
4 the House of Representatives;

5 (C) the Committee on Appropriations of  
6 the Senate; and

7 (D) the Committee on Appropriations of  
8 the House of Representatives.

9 (2) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”  
10 means the United States Commission on Inter-  
11 national Religious Freedom established under sec-  
12 tion 201 of the International Religious Freedom Act  
13 of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431).

14 (3) COMMISSIONER.—The term “Commis-  
15 sioner” means a member of the Commission.

16 (4) VICE CHAIR.—The term “Vice Chair”  
17 means the Vice Chair of the Commission who was  
18 appointed to such position by an elected official from  
19 the political party that is different from the political  
20 party of the elected official who appointed the Chair  
21 of the Commission.

22 (b) STRATEGIC POLICY AND ORGANIZATIONAL RE-  
23 VIEW PLANNING PROCESS.—Not later than 60 days after  
24 the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less fre-  
25 quently than biennially thereafter, the Chair and Vice

1 Chair of the Commission, in coordination with the Com-  
2 missioners, the Ambassador-at-Large for International  
3 Religious Freedom, Commission staff, and others jointly  
4 selected by the Chair and Vice Chair, shall carry out a  
5 strategic policy and organizational review planning process  
6 that includes—

7           (1) a review of the duties set forth in section  
8           202 of the International Religious Freedom Act of  
9           1998 (22 U.S.C. 6432) and the powers set forth in  
10          section 203 of such Act (22 U.S.C. 6432a);

11          (2) the preparation of a written description of  
12          prioritized actions that the Commission is required  
13          to complete to fulfill the strategic plan required  
14          under subsection (d);

15          (3) a review of the scope, content, and timing  
16          of the Commission’s annual report and any required  
17          changes; and

18          (4) a review of the personnel policies set forth  
19          in section 204 of the International Religious Free-  
20          dom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6432b) and any re-  
21          quired changes to such policies.

22          (c) UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT.—

23           (1) IN GENERAL.—To the greatest extent pos-  
24           sible, the Chair, Vice Chair, and all of the Commis-  
25           sioners shall ensure that this section is implemented

1 in a manner that results in unanimous agreement  
2 among the Commissioners with regard to—

3 (A) the strategic policy and organizational  
4 review planning process required under sub-  
5 section (b); and

6 (B) the strategic plan required under sub-  
7 section (d).

8 (2) ALTERNATIVE APPROVAL PROCESS.—If  
9 unanimous agreement under paragraph (1) is not  
10 possible, items for inclusion in the strategic plan  
11 may, at the joint discretion of the Chair and Vice  
12 Chair, be approved by an affirmative vote of—

13 (A) a majority of Commissioners appointed  
14 by an elected official from the political party of  
15 the President; and

16 (B) a majority of Commissioners appointed  
17 by an elected official from the political party  
18 that is not the party of the President.

19 (d) SUBMISSION OF STRATEGIC PLAN.—Not later  
20 than 180 days after the date of the enactment of the Act,  
21 and not less frequently than biennially thereafter, the  
22 Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission shall jointly sub-  
23 mit, to the appropriate congressional committees, a writ-  
24 ten strategic plan that includes—

1           (1) a description of prioritized actions for the  
2 Commission for a period of time to be specified by  
3 the Commissioners;

4           (2) a description of any changes the Commis-  
5 sion considers necessary with regard to the scope,  
6 content, and timing of the Commission’s annual re-  
7 port;

8           (3) a description of any changes the Commis-  
9 sion considers necessary with regard to personnel  
10 matters; and

11           (4) the Commission’s funding requirements for  
12 the period covered by the strategic plan.

13           (e) PENDING ISSUES.—The strategic plan required  
14 under subsection (d) may identify any issues or proposals  
15 that have not yet been resolved by the Commission.

16           (f) IMPLEMENTATION OF PERSONNEL PROVISIONS  
17 AND ANNUAL REPORT.—Notwithstanding section 204(a)  
18 and 205(a) of the International Religious Freedom Act of  
19 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6432b(a) and 6533(a)), the Commission  
20 is authorized to implement provisions related to personnel  
21 and the Commission’s annual report that are included in  
22 the strategic plan submitted pursuant to this section.

23           (g) CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.—Upon request,  
24 the Commission shall—

1           (1) make available for inspection any informa-  
2           tion and documents requested by the appropriate  
3           congressional committees; and

4           (2) respond to any requests to provide testi-  
5           mony before the appropriate congressional commit-  
6           tees.

7   **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

8           Section 207 of the International Religious Freedom  
9   Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6435) is amended to read as fol-  
10   lows:

11   **“SEC. 207. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

12           “(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be ap-  
13           propriated to the Commission \$3,500,000 for each of the  
14           fiscal years 2016 to 2019 to carry out the provisions of  
15           this Act and section 4 of the United States Commission  
16           on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act  
17           of 2015.

18           “(b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts authorized  
19           to be appropriated under subsection (a) shall remain avail-  
20           able until the earlier of—

21                   “(1) the date on which they have been ex-  
22                   pended; or

23                   “(2) the date on which the Commission is ter-  
24                   minated under section 209.

1       “(c) LIMITATION.—In each fiscal year, the Commis-  
2 sion shall only be authorized to expend amounts that have  
3 been appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) if the Com-  
4 mission—

5           “(1) complies with the requirements set forth in  
6 section 4 of the United States Commission on Inter-  
7 national Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act of  
8 2015; and

9           “(2) submits the annual financial report re-  
10 quired under section 208(e) to the appropriate con-  
11 gressional committees.”.

Passed the Senate September 30, 2015.

Attest:

*Secretary.*





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