

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 978

To amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to increase and adjust for inflation the maximum value of articles that may be imported duty-free by one person on one day, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 13, 2015

Mr. SCHOCK (for himself, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. STEFANIK, and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

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## A BILL

To amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to increase and adjust for inflation the maximum value of articles that may be imported duty-free by one person on one day, 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 “Low Value Shipment  
5 Regulatory Modernization Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON DE MINIMIS INFORMAL**  
2 **ENTRIES.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-  
4 ings:

5 (1) Modernizing international customs is crit-  
6 ical for United States businesses of all sizes, con-  
7 sumers in the United States, and the economic  
8 growth of the United States.

9 (2) Higher thresholds for the value of articles  
10 that may be entered informally and free of duty pro-  
11 vide significant economic benefits to businesses and  
12 consumers in the United States and the economy of  
13 the United States through costs savings and reduc-  
14 tions in trade transaction costs.

15 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
16 gress that the United States Trade Representative should  
17 encourage other countries, through bilateral, regional, and  
18 multilateral fora, to establish commercially meaningful de  
19 minimis values for express and postal shipments that are  
20 exempt from customs duties and taxes and from certain  
21 entry documentation requirements, as appropriate.

1 **SEC. 3. INCREASE IN AND ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION OF**  
2 **MAXIMUM VALUE OF ARTICLES THAT MAY BE**  
3 **IMPORTED DUTY-FREE BY ONE PERSON ON**  
4 **ONE DAY.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 321 of the Tariff Act of  
6 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1321) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a)(2), by striking subpara-  
8 graph (C) and inserting the following:

9 “(C) in any other case, the dollar amount  
10 specified in subsection (e).”; and

11 (2) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(c) ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT OF VALUE OF ARTICLES  
13 THAT MAY ENTER DUTY-FREE.—

14 “(1) DOLLAR AMOUNT SPECIFIED.—The dollar  
15 amount specified in this subsection is—

16 “(A) for calendar year 2016, \$800; and

17 “(B) subject to paragraph (2), for any cal-  
18 endar year after calendar year 2016, an amount  
19 equal to \$800 increased by an amount equal  
20 to—

21 “(i) \$800, multiplied by

22 “(ii) the percentage of the increase (if  
23 any) in the Consumer Price Index for the  
24 preceding calendar year compared to the  
25 Consumer Price Index for calendar year  
26 2015.

1           “(2) ROUNDING.—Any increase under para-  
2           graph (1) of the dollar amount specified in this sub-  
3           section shall be rounded to the nearest increment of  
4           \$50.

5           “(3) CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR ANY CAL-  
6           ENDAR YEAR.—For purposes of this subsection, the  
7           Consumer Price Index for any calendar year is the  
8           average of the Consumer Price Index as of the close  
9           of the 12-month period ending on September 30 of  
10          that calendar year.

11          “(4) CONSUMER PRICE INDEX DEFINED.—For  
12          purposes of this subsection, the term ‘Consumer  
13          Price Index’ means the last Consumer Price Index  
14          for All Urban Consumers published by the Bureau  
15          of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor.”.

16          (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
17          this section apply to articles entered, or withdrawn from  
18          warehouse for consumption, on or after January 1, 2016.

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