

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4650

To amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to include several additions to the many forms of violations of the right to religious freedom.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 9, 2014

Mr. STOCKMAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to include several additions to the many forms of violations of the right to religious freedom.

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 “European Union Reli-
5 gious Freedom Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds as follows:

8 (1) There is a growing assault on religious free-
9 dom in the European Union.

1 (2) The European Union member states of Bul-
2 garia, Croatia, Germany, Greece, Latvia, Lithuania,
3 Malta, and Sweden prohibit homeschooling. This
4 prohibition often infringes upon the traditional inter-
5 ests of parents regarding the religious upbringing of
6 their children. This is especially true with regard to
7 adherents of minority religions, such as small
8 Protestant Christian denominations.

9 (3) The European Union member states of
10 Sweden and Denmark have banned religious meth-
11 ods of meat production, including the Jewish kosher
12 method of shechitah and the Islamic halal method of
13 dhabihah. This effectively prevents religiously ob-
14 servant Jews and Muslims from eating meat pro-
15 duced in those countries, and requires them to im-
16 port it at higher cost. Many other European Union
17 member states are considering similar bans.

18 (4) The European Union member state of Swe-
19 den has imposed restrictions on performing cir-
20 cumcision, and many European Union member
21 states are considering banning this practice entirely.
22 This would impose a substantial burden on the reli-
23 gious practices of Jews and Muslims, and would un-
24 doubtedly cause many to feel compelled to immigrate
25 to countries with less offensive laws.

1 (5) The European Union member state of
2 France has banned the wearing of religious garb in
3 public schools. This imposes a substantial burden on
4 the religious practices of many religions, including
5 Sikhs, Jews, Muslims, and members of Catholic mo-
6 nastic orders, among others.

7 **SEC. 3. GENERAL AUTHORIZATION.**

8 Section 2(a)(4) of the International Religious Free-
9 dom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6401(a)(4)) is amended in
10 the fourth sentence by inserting “, including
11 homeschooling,” after “prohibitions against the pursuit of
12 education”, and inserting “prohibition of religious meth-
13 ods of meat production, prohibition of circumcision, prohi-
14 bition of wearing religious garb” after “or public office”.

15 **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

16 The provisions of this Act shall take effect imme-
17 diately following enactment.

○