

Comparison of Iran Internet Freedom Legislative Measures

The Internet Reach and Access Now (IRAN) Act (H.R.7380) and the Iran Human Rights, Internet Freedom, and Accountability Act introduced in the House (H.R.7622) and Senate (S.3900) represent complementary congressional efforts to strengthen internet freedom, support Iranian civil society, and respond to the Iranian regime's use of nationwide internet shutdowns to suppress dissent and conceal human rights abuses.

The IRAN Act focuses on improving coordination across the U.S. government by designating the Department of State as the lead agency responsible for implementing and updating a comprehensive strategy to expand secure connectivity tools such as VPNs and direct-to-cell communications, while protecting satellite coverage from intentional disruption and supporting cybersecurity programs for civil society. It authorizes \$15 million annually for FY27–28 to support cybersecurity training and digital safety tools, including programs that expand access to secure VPN services for individuals in Iran.

The House version of the Iran Human Rights, Internet Freedom, and Accountability Act builds on this objective by expanding technical analysis requirements, increasing and extending funding authorization for the Iran Internet Freedom Grant Program to \$30M for FY27-30, and directing the Defense Innovation Unit to develop technologies capable of countering shutdowns. It also includes broader human rights and corruption accountability provisions, most notably establishing an Iran Kleptocracy Initiative within the Treasury Department to identify and disrupt corruption networks tied to regime officials and requiring presidential determinations on human rights sanctionable actors.

The Senate version incorporates several coordination elements aligned with the IRAN Act while maintaining the broader framework of the House bill. It increases and extends grant program funding at not less than \$20 million annually for FY27–30, and establishes an interagency working group to support the development and deployment of shutdown-circumvention technologies, while expanding cybersecurity training and broadcasting support.

Together, the three measures reflect overlapping but distinct approaches to advancing internet freedom, strengthening resilience against shutdowns, and promoting accountability for repression in Iran.

Issue Area	IRAN Act (H.R.7380)	House Bill (H.R.7622)	Senate Bill (S.3900)
Primary Focus	Coordination, civil society connectivity, and communications protections.	Broad framework combining internet freedom with accountability and technology deployment.	Hybrid model combining coordination, technology deployment, and civil society support.
Lead Agency Structure	Designates State Department as lead coordinating authority.	No permanent lead structure added but requires interagency coordination.	Designates State Department as coordinating authority.
Internet Freedom Strategy Updates	Updates strategy under 2012 Iran Threat Reduction Act.	Requires expanded feasibility assessments under NDAA Section 5124.	Includes updated coordination strategy.
Civil Society Support Funding	\$15M annually FY27–28 for cybersecurity training and digital safety tools including VPN access.	Not a primary funding lane.	Includes cybersecurity training support.
Internet Freedom Grant Program	No expansion.	Extended to \$30M annually FY27–30.	Extended to ≥\$20M annually FY27–30.
Technology Development	None.	Defense Innovation Unit pipeline to develop and deploy anti-shutdown technologies funded at \$2M annually FY27–30.	Creates interagency working group for development and deployment of anti-shutdown technologies funded as needed.
Satellite / DTC Protection	Protects coverage from intentional disruption.	Not included.	Not included.
Sanctions – Structural Authorities	None.	Creates Iran Kleptocracy Initiative within FinCEN to map regime-linked corruption networks.+ sanctions review mechanism.	Includes presidential review mechanism for sanctionable actors under Magnitsky / existing regimes.
Sanctions – Direct Designations	None.	Congress can trigger review of individuals supporting censorship or Human rights repression.	Uses existing sanctions authorities via required presidential determination.
Broadcasting / Media Support	Not included.	Encourages expanded support.	Requires formal strategy to expand broadcasting and support independent media.