

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7519

To amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to authorize rewards for providing information on foreign election interference, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 9, 2020

Mr. ENGEL (for himself and Mr. McCAUL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

---

## A BILL

To amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to authorize rewards for providing information on foreign election interference, 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 “Rewards for Providing  
5 Information on Foreign Election Interference Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF REWARDS FOR PROVIDING IN-**  
2 **FORMATION ON FOREIGN ELECTION INTER-**  
3 **FERENCE.**

4 Section 36 of the State Department Basic Authorities  
5 Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2708) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)(2), by inserting “foreign  
7 election interference,” before “transnational orga-  
8 nized crime”;

9 (2) in subsection (b)—

10 (A) in paragraph (5), by striking “or (10)”  
11 and inserting “(10), or (13)”;

12 (B) in paragraph (11), by striking “or”  
13 after the semicolon at the end;

14 (C) in paragraph (12)—

15 (i) by striking “sections” and insert-  
16 ing “section”;

17 (ii) by striking “or (b)(1)” and insert-  
18 ing “or 2914(b)(1)”;

19 (iii) by striking the period at the end  
20 and inserting “; or”; and

21 (D) by adding at the end the following new  
22 paragraph:

23 “(13) the identification or location of a foreign  
24 person that knowingly engaged or is engaging in for-  
25 eign election interference.”; and

26 (3) in subsection (k)—

1 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (3)  
2 through (8) as paragraphs (5) through (10), re-  
3 spectively;

4 (B) by inserting after paragraph (2) the  
5 following new paragraphs:

6 “(3) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term ‘foreign per-  
7 son’ means—

8 “(A) an individual who is not a United  
9 States person; or

10 “(B) a foreign entity.

11 “(4) FOREIGN ELECTION INTERFERENCE.—The  
12 term ‘foreign election interference’ means conduct by  
13 a foreign person that—

14 “(A)(i) violates Federal criminal, voting  
15 rights, or campaign finance law; or

16 “(ii) is performed by any person act-  
17 ing as an agent of or on behalf of a foreign  
18 government or criminal enterprise; and

19 “(B) includes any covert, fraudulent, de-  
20 ceptive, or unlawful act or attempted act, or  
21 knowing use of information acquired by theft,  
22 undertaken with the purpose or effect of under-  
23 mining public confidence in election processes  
24 or institutions, or influencing, undermining con-  
25 fidence in, or altering the result or reported re-

1           sult of, a general or primary Federal, State, or  
2           local election or caucus, including—

3                   “(i) the campaign of a candidate; or

4                   “(ii) a ballot measure, including an  
5                   amendment, a bond issue, an initiative, a  
6                   recall, a referral, or a referendum.”; and

7                   (C) in paragraph (10), as so redesignated,  
8           in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” after  
9           the semicolon and inserting “or”.

○