

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7633

To provide authority to enhance security assistance with countries that are engaged in regional security cooperation efforts in the Middle East and North Africa, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 12, 2024

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

A BILL

To provide authority to enhance security assistance with countries that are engaged in regional security cooperation efforts in the Middle East and North Africa, 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 “Enhance Cooperation
5 Against Terrorism Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORITY TO ENHANCE SECURITY ASSISTANCE**
2 **WITH COUNTRIES THAT ARE ENGAGED IN RE-**
3 **GIONAL SECURITY COOPERATION EFFORTS**
4 **IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA.**

5 (a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the
6 United States to work with allies and partners to safe-
7 guard freedom of navigation, protect critical infrastruc-
8 ture, uphold basic principles of international law, and pro-
9 tect United States citizens from threats posed by Iran and
10 Iran-aligned entities in the Middle East and North Africa.

11 (b) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of State shall—

12 (1) identify countries that—

13 (A) have normalized diplomatic relations
14 with the State of Israel; and

15 (B) are engaged in regional security co-
16 operation efforts in the Middle East and North
17 Africa to combat threats posed by Iran and
18 Iran-aligned entities; and

19 (2) in order to meet the policy described in sub-
20 section (a), provide approval for the sale or lease, a
21 license or other approval for the export, or the trans-
22 fer of defense articles or defense services to coun-
23 tries identified by the Secretary under paragraph (1)
24 in accordance with the expedited approval provisions
25 of subsection (c).

1 (c) EXPEDITED APPROVAL PROVISIONS.—In the case
2 of a sale or lease of defense articles or defense services
3 under section 3, 21, or 36 of the Arms Export Control
4 Act (22 U.S.C. 2753, 2761, or 2776) to a country identi-
5 fied by the Secretary of State under subsection (b)(1), a
6 license or other approval under section 38 of such Act (22
7 U.S.C. 2778) for the export of defense articles or defense
8 services to such a country (or of a commercial agreement
9 that involves the manufacture in such a country of any
10 item of significant combat equipment on the United States
11 Munitions List in accordance with section 36(d) of such
12 Act (22 U.S.C. 2776(d))), or a transfer of excess defense
13 articles under section 516(c)(2) of the Foreign Assistance
14 Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j(c)(2)) to such a country,
15 the President shall—

16 (1) notwithstanding the time limitations de-
17 scribed in any of such sections, submit to Congress
18 a certification described in such sections, at least 15
19 calendar days before sale, lease, license or other ap-
20 proval, or transfer of the defense articles or defense
21 services is approved; and

22 (2) include in the certification—

23 (A) information on why the provision of
24 such defense articles or services is related to or

1 in furtherance of the policy described in sub-
2 section (a); and

3 (B) a summary of steps taken by the
4 United States Government to ensure that any
5 sensitive United States technology, information,
6 or capabilities that may be provided to such a
7 country by reason of the provision of such de-
8 fense articles or services are not acquired by—

9 (i) the People’s Republic of China or
10 any entity owned or controlled by the Peo-
11 ple’s Republic of China; or

12 (ii) the Russian Federation or any en-
13 tity owned or controlled by the Russian
14 Federation.

15 (d) STRATEGY.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after
17 the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 60
18 days thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit
19 to the appropriate congressional committees, in writ-
20 ing, a strategy on the implementation of this section.

21 (2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The strategy
22 required by this subsection shall include the fol-
23 lowing:

24 (A) An overview of the security threats
25 from Iran and Iran-aligned entities to both the

1 United States and the countries identified by
2 the Secretary of State under subsection (b)(1).

3 (B) A description and assessment of the
4 metrics and evaluation procedures used for im-
5 plementing the policy described in subsection
6 (a), including recommendations to improve mul-
7 tilateral cooperation between the United States
8 and such countries and among such countries.

9 (C) A description of the challenges to
10 achieving full interoperability between the
11 United States and such countries and the im-
12 pact on progress to address the policy described
13 in subsection (a), including efforts to address
14 shared threats posed by Iran and Iran-aligned
15 entities.

16 (D) A description of measures to provide
17 such countries interim capabilities until the
18 cases described in clauses (i) and (ii) are deliv-
19 ered.

20 (E) A description and assessment of—

21 (i) the status of all pending sales of
22 defense articles or defense services over
23 \$25,000,000, including Letters of Request
24 and where applicable Letters of Offer and
25 Acceptance, beginning 5 years prior to the

1 date of the enactment of this Act, to such
2 countries pursuant to the provisions of law
3 specified in subsection (c);

4 (ii) a description of the delivery time-
5 frames for all pending sales of defense ar-
6 ticles or defense services over \$25,000,000
7 to such countries pursuant to the provi-
8 sions of law specified in subsection (c) and
9 any measures that could be taken to expe-
10 dite their delivery; and

11 (iii) recommendations to improve the
12 process for authorizing the transfer of de-
13 fense articles and services authorized
14 under sections 36 and 38 of the Arms Ex-
15 port Control Act to such countries, includ-
16 ing as it relates to delivery timeline.

17 (3) FORM.—The report required by this sub-
18 section shall be submitted in unclassified form but
19 may contain a classified annex.

20 (4) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

21 (A) the term “appropriate congressional
22 committees” means—

23 (i) the Committee on Foreign Affairs
24 of the House of Representatives; and

- 1 (ii) the Committee on Foreign Rela-
2 tions of the Senate; and
3 (B) the term “Iran-aligned entity”—
4 (i) includes an entity that—
5 (I) is controlled or significantly
6 influenced by the Government of Iran;
7 and
8 (II) knowingly receives material
9 or financial support from the Govern-
10 ment of Iran; and
11 (ii) includes—
12 (I) Hezbollah;
13 (II) the Houthis; or
14 (III) any other proxy group that
15 furthers Iran’s national security objec-
16 tives.

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