

114TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5066

To authorize the President to provide assistance to Israel to protect the coastline of Israel and natural gas fields located in the exclusive economic zone of Israel, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 26, 2016

Mr. HIGGINS (for himself and Mr. LOUDERMILK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To authorize the President to provide assistance to Israel to protect the coastline of Israel and natural gas fields located in the exclusive economic zone of Israel, 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 “United States-Israel  
5 Maritime Security Partnership Act of 2016”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) In 2010, a major natural gas field—named  
2 the Leviathan gas field—was discovered off the  
3 coast of Israel.

4           (2) It has been estimated that the Leviathan  
5 gas field and the Tamar gas field, two major natural  
6 gas fields located approximately 90 miles west of  
7 Haifa, contain 620 billion cubic meters and 280 bil-  
8 lion cubic meters of natural gas respectively.

9           (3) The two gas fields could have major geo-  
10 strategic implications for Israel and facilitate co-  
11 operation between Israel and its neighbors.

12           (4) The gas drilling sites represent strategic in-  
13 frastructure that are potential targets for terrorist  
14 organizations, like Hezbollah and Hamas, seeking to  
15 cause harm to Israel and its interests.

16           (5) The discovery of large gas reserves in the  
17 exclusive economic zone of Israel necessitates the de-  
18 ployment of new naval capabilities of Israel to pro-  
19 tect these resources.

20           (6) Hezbollah reportedly possesses the Russian  
21 cruise missile, Yakhont, which is capable of striking  
22 Israel's coast, putting key Israeli infrastructure and  
23 economic assets within range.

1 (7) Hezbollah has previously deployed anti-ship  
2 missiles, including during a 2006 attack on an  
3 Israeli naval vessel that killed four Israeli sailors.

4 (8) During Operation Protective Edge in 2014,  
5 Hamas claimed responsibility for firing rockets at  
6 Israeli natural gas installations 19 miles off the  
7 coast of Gaza.

8 (9) United States-Israeli cooperation to combat  
9 Israel's varied security threats has proven beneficial  
10 to both countries.

11 (10) The provision of United States assistance  
12 to Israel to protect the coastline of Israel and nat-  
13 ural gas fields located in the exclusive economic zone  
14 of Israel will be critical to enabling Israel to develop  
15 its energy infrastructure and further integrate Israel  
16 into regional and European economies.

17 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE**  
18 **TO ISRAEL TO PROTECT THE COASTLINE OF**  
19 **ISRAEL AND NATURAL GAS FIELDS LOCATED**  
20 **IN THE EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE OF**  
21 **ISRAEL.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized to  
23 provide assistance to Israel to protect the coastline of  
24 Israel and natural gas fields located in the exclusive eco-  
25 nomic zone of Israel.

1 (b) ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED.—Activities that may be  
2 supported by assistance under subsection (a) include the  
3 following:

4 (1) Procurement, maintenance, and sustain-  
5 ment of the David’s Sling Weapon System for pur-  
6 poses of intercepting short-range missiles launched  
7 at the coastline of Israel and natural gas fields de-  
8 scribed in subsection (a).

9 (2) Payment of incremental expenses of Israel  
10 that are incurred by Israel as the direct result of  
11 participation in a bilateral or multilateral military  
12 exercise of the United States Navy or Coast Guard,  
13 including pursuant to section 2010 of title 10,  
14 United States Code.

15 (3) Conduct of increased visits of United States  
16 naval vessels at ports of Israel.

17 (4) Conduct of joint research and development  
18 for advanced maritime domain awareness capabili-  
19 ties.

20 (c) SUNSET.—This section shall terminate on the  
21 date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of  
22 this Act.

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