H. R. 907

To improve defense cooperation between the United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 12, 2015

Ms. Ros-Lehtinen (for herself, Ms. Granger, Mr. Deutch, and Mrs. Lowey) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To improve defense cooperation between the United States and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) As of January 22, 2015, the United States Government has provided $3,046,343,000 in assistance to the Syria humanitarian response, of which
nearly $467,000,000 has been to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

(2) As of January 2015, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), there are 621,937 registered Syrian refugees in Jordan and 83.8 percent of those refugees live outside refugee camps.

(3) In 2000, the United States and Jordan signed a free-trade agreement that went into force in 2001.

(4) In 1996, the United States granted Jordan major non-NATO ally status.

(5) Jordan is suffering from the Syrian refugee crisis and the threat of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

(6) The Government of Jordan was elected as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council beginning in January 2014 and terminating in December 2015.

(7) Enhanced support for defense cooperation with Jordan is important to the national security of the United States, including through creation of a status in law for Jordan similar to the countries in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Japan, Australia, the Republic of Korea, Israel, and New
Zealand, with respect to consideration by Congress of foreign military sales to Jordan.

(8) Jordanian pilot Moaz al-Kasasbeh was brutally murdered by ISIL.

(9) On February 3, 2015, Secretary of State John Kerry and Jordanian Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh signed a new Memorandum of Understanding that reflects the intention to increase United States assistance to the Government of Jordan from $660,000,000 to $1,000,000,000 per year for the years 2015 through 2017.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It should be the policy of the United States to support the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in its response to the Syrian refugee crisis, provide necessary assistance to alleviate the domestic burden to provide basic needs for the assimilated Syrian refugees, cooperate with Jordan to combat the terrorist threat from the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) or other terrorist organizations, and help secure the border between Jordan and its neighbors Syria and Iraq.

SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that expeditious consideration of certifications of letters of offer to sell defense articles, defense services, design and construction services,
and major defense equipment to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan under section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2776(b)) is fully consistent with United States security and foreign policy interests and the objectives of world peace and security.

SEC. 5. AMENDMENTS TO ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT.

The Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 3 (22 U.S.C. 2753)—

(A) in subsection (b)(2), by inserting “the Government of Jordan,” before “or the Government of New Zealand”; and

(B) in subsection (d)—

(i) in paragraph (2)(B), by inserting “Jordan,” before “or New Zealand”;

(ii) in paragraph (3)(A)(i), by inserting “Jordan,” before “or New Zealand”; and

(iii) in paragraph (5), by inserting “Jordan,” before “or New Zealand”;

(2) in section 21 (22 U.S.C. 2761)—

(A) in subsection (e)(2)(A), by inserting “Jordan,” before “or New Zealand”; and

(B) in subsection (h)—
(i) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “Jordan,” before “or Israel”; and

(ii) in paragraph (2), by inserting “Jordan,” before “or Israel” both places it appears;

(3) in section 36 (22 U.S.C. 2776)—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (1), by inserting “Jordan,” before “or New Zealand”;  

(ii) in paragraph (2), by inserting “Jordan,” before “or New Zealand”; and

(iii) in paragraph (6), by inserting “Jordan,” before “or New Zealand”;  

(B) in subsection (c), by inserting “Jordan,” before “or New Zealand” both places it appears; and

(C) in subsection (d)(2)(A), by inserting “Jordan,” before “or New Zealand”;

(4) in section 62(c)(1) (22 U.S.C. 2796a(c)(1)), by inserting “Jordan,” before “or New Zealand”; and

(5) in section 63(a)(2) (22 U.S.C. 2796b(a)(2)), by inserting “Jordan,” before “or New Zealand”.

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SEC. 6. AMENDMENTS TO FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961.

Section 656(a)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2416(a)(2)) is amended by inserting “Jordan,” before “or New Zealand”.

SEC. 7. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.

The Secretary of State is authorized, subject to the availability of appropriations, to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Jordan to increase economic support funds, military cooperation, including joint military exercises, personnel exchanges, support for international peacekeeping missions, and enhanced strategic dialogue.