

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7245

To provide humanitarian relief to the Venezuelan people and Venezuelan migrants, to advance a constitutional and democratic solution to Venezuela's political crisis, to address Venezuela's economic reconstruction, to combat public corruption, narcotics trafficking, and money laundering, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 10, 2018

Mr. SIRES (for himself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mrs. TORRES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Financial 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 provide humanitarian relief to the Venezuelan people and Venezuelan migrants, to advance a constitutional and democratic solution to Venezuela's political crisis, to address Venezuela's economic reconstruction, to combat public corruption, narcotics trafficking, and money laundering, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the  
 3 “Venezuela Humanitarian Relief, Reconstruction, and  
 4 Rule of Law Act of 2018”.

5 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for  
 6 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Sense of Congress.

**TITLE I—HUMANITARIAN RELIEF FOR VENEZUELA**

- Sec. 101. Humanitarian assistance to Venezuelans in neighboring countries.
- Sec. 102. Support for efforts at the United Nations on the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela.

**TITLE II—RESTORING DEMOCRACY AND ADDRESSING THE  
 POLITICAL CRISIS IN VENEZUELA**

- Sec. 201. Recognition of Venezuela’s democratically elected National Assembly.
- Sec. 202. Advancing a negotiated solution to Venezuela’s crisis.
- Sec. 203. Support for the Lima Group.
- Sec. 204. Accountability for crimes against humanity.

**TITLE III—SUPPORTING THE RECONSTRUCTION OF VENEZUELA**

- Sec. 301. Engaging international financial institutions to advance the reconstruction of Venezuela’s economy and energy infrastructure.
- Sec. 302. Recovering assets stolen from the Venezuelan people.

**TITLE IV—RESTORING THE RULE OF LAW IN VENEZUELA**

- Sec. 401. Public information about sanctioned officials.
- Sec. 402. Coordinating targeted sanctions with partners in the Western Hemisphere and the European Union.
- Sec. 403. Financial sanctions on Venezuelan government debt.
- Sec. 404. Exceptions for humanitarian assistance.

**TITLE V—CRYPTOCURRENCY SANCTIONS AND ENSURING THE  
 EFFECTIVENESS OF UNITED STATES SANCTIONS**

- Sec. 501. Sanctions on Venezuela’s cryptocurrency and the provision of related technologies.
- Sec. 502. Report on the impact of cryptocurrencies on United States sanctions.

**TITLE VI—TERMINATION**

- Sec. 601. Extension and termination of sanctions against Venezuela.

7 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

8 It is the sense of Congress that—

1           (1) Venezuela’s electoral event on May 20,  
2           2018—

3                   (A) was not legitimate; and

4                   (B) did not comply with international  
5           standards for a free, fair, and transparent  
6           democratic process; and

7           (2) senior officials in the de facto government  
8           of Nicolás Maduro—

9                   (A) have taken continuous steps—

10                   (i) to consolidate an authoritarian  
11           government; and

12                   (ii) to direct political control over  
13           Venezuela’s Supreme Tribunal of Justice,  
14           National Electoral Council, and armed  
15           forces;

16                   (B) have implemented policies that are di-  
17           rectly responsible for—

18                   (i) Venezuela’s economic and humani-  
19           tarian crises; and

20                   (ii) the massive outflow of Venezuelan  
21           migrants leaving the country;

22                   (C) have used access to food as a tool of  
23           political coercion and a source of corruption  
24           and have directly profited from corruption in  
25           food procurement contracts;

1 (D) have utilized repressive tactics to vio-  
2 late and curtail human rights, political rights,  
3 freedom of expression, and freedom of the  
4 press, including the arbitrary detention of polit-  
5 ical prisoners; and

6 (E) have engaged in acts of gross corrup-  
7 tion and criminality that have contributed to  
8 the absence of the rule of law in Venezuela.

9 **TITLE I—HUMANITARIAN**  
10 **RELIEF FOR VENEZUELA**

11 **SEC. 101. HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO VENEZUELAN**  
12 **IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in coordi-  
14 nation with the Administrator of the United States Agen-  
15 cy for International Development, shall work through  
16 international and nongovernmental organizations to pro-  
17 vide Venezuelans in neighboring countries with humani-  
18 tarian aid, such as—

19 (1) urgently needed health and nutritional as-  
20 sistance, including logistical and technical assistance  
21 to hospitals and health centers in affected commu-  
22 nities;

23 (2) food assistance for vulnerable individuals,  
24 including assistance to improve food security for af-  
25 fected communities; and

1 (3) hygiene supplies and sanitation services.

2 (b) ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS.—The assistance de-  
3 scribed in subsection (a)—

4 (1) may be provided—

5 (A) directly to Venezuelans in neighboring  
6 countries; or

7 (B) indirectly through the communities in  
8 which the Venezuelans reside; and

9 (2) should focus on the most vulnerable Ven-  
10 ezuelans in neighboring countries.

11 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be  
13 appropriated to the Secretary of State \$20,000,000  
14 for fiscal year 2019 to carry out the activities set  
15 forth in subsection (a) in accordance with this sec-  
16 tion.

17 (2) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—

18 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided  
19 under subparagraph (B), amounts appropriated  
20 or otherwise made available pursuant to para-  
21 graph (1) may not be obligated until 15 days  
22 after the date on which the President provides  
23 notice to the appropriate congressional commit-  
24 tees of the intent to obligate such funds.

25 (B) WAIVER.—

1 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of  
2 State may waive the requirement under  
3 subparagraph (A) if the Secretary deter-  
4 mines that such requirement would pose a  
5 substantial risk to human health or wel-  
6 fare.

7 (ii) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—If  
8 a waiver is invoked under clause (i), the  
9 President shall notify the appropriate con-  
10 gressional committees of the intention to  
11 obligate funds under this section as early  
12 as practicable, but not later than 3 days  
13 after taking the action to which such noti-  
14 fication requirement was applicable in the  
15 context of the circumstances necessitating  
16 such waiver.

17 (C) DEFINED TERM.—In this subpara-  
18 graph, the term “appropriate congressional  
19 committees” means—

20 (i) the Committee on Foreign Rela-  
21 tions of the Senate;

22 (ii) the Committee on Appropriations  
23 of the Senate;

24 (iii) the Committee on Foreign Affairs  
25 of the House of Representatives; and

1 (iv) the Committee on Appropriations  
2 of the House of Representatives.

3 **SEC. 102. SUPPORT FOR EFFORTS AT THE UNITED NATIONS**  
4 **ON THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN VEN-**  
5 **EZUELA.**

6 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
7 gress that the United Nations humanitarian agencies, in-  
8 cluding the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian  
9 Affairs, the World Health Organization, the Pan Amer-  
10 ican Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Orga-  
11 nization, UNICEF, and the United Nations High Com-  
12 missioner for Refugees, should conduct and publish inde-  
13 pendent assessments regarding—

14 (1) the extent and impact of the shortages of  
15 food and medicine in Venezuela; and

16 (2) the efforts needed to resolve such shortages.

17 (b) INITIAL EFFORTS.—The President shall instruct  
18 the Permanent Representative of the United States to the  
19 United Nations to use the voice and vote of the United  
20 States in the United Nations Security Council to secure  
21 the necessary votes—

22 (1) to place the humanitarian and political cri-  
23 sis in Venezuela on the United Nations Security  
24 Council's Programme of Work; and

1           (2) to secure a Presidential Statement from the  
2           President of the United Nations Security Council  
3           urging the Government of Venezuela—

4                   (A) to allow the delivery of humanitarian  
5           relief; and

6                   (B) to lift bureaucratic impediments or  
7           any other obstacles preventing independent non-  
8           governmental organizations from providing the  
9           proper assistance to the people of Venezuela  
10          without any interference by the Government of  
11          Venezuela.

12          (c) UNITED NATIONS HUMANITARIAN COORDI-  
13          NATOR.—The President shall instruct the Permanent Rep-  
14          resentative to the United Nations to use the voice and in-  
15          fluence of the United States to advance the appointment  
16          of a United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator for Ven-  
17          ezuela to lead and coordinate the efforts of humanitarian  
18          organizations in a manner that contributes to Venezuela’s  
19          long-term recovery.

20          (d) ADDITIONAL EFFORTS.—

21                   (1) IN GENERAL.—If the Government of Ven-  
22          ezuela refuses to allow the delivery of humanitarian  
23          relief and to lift bureaucratic impediments and any  
24          other obstacles described in subsection (b)(2)(B), the  
25          President, beginning not later than 30 days after the



1 conclusion of the efforts of the United Nations de-  
2 scribed in such subsection, shall instruct the Perma-  
3 nent Representative of the United States to the  
4 United Nations to use the voice and vote of the  
5 United States to secure the adoption of a resolution  
6 described in paragraph (2).

7 (2) RESOLUTION DESCRIBED.—The resolution  
8 described in this paragraph is a Resolution of the  
9 United Nations Security Council that—

10 (A) requires the Government of Venezuela  
11 to promptly allow safe and unhindered access  
12 for humanitarian agencies and their imple-  
13 menting partners, including possible support  
14 from neighboring countries; and

15 (B) calls on the Government of Ven-  
16 ezuela—

17 (i) to allow the delivery of food and  
18 medicine to the people of Venezuela;

19 (ii) to end human rights violations  
20 against the people of Venezuela;

21 (iii) to agree to free, fair, and trans-  
22 parent elections with credible international  
23 observers;

24 (iv) to cease violence against the peo-  
25 ple of Venezuela; and

1 (v) to release all political prisoners  
2 held by the Government of Venezuela.

3 **TITLE II—RESTORING DEMOC-**  
4 **RACY AND ADDRESSING THE**  
5 **POLITICAL CRISIS IN VEN-**  
6 **EZUELA**

7 **SEC. 201. RECOGNITION OF VENEZUELA’S DEMOCRAT-**  
8 **ICALLY ELECTED NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.**

9 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-  
10 ings:

11 (1) Venezuela’s unicameral National Assembly  
12 convened on January 6, 2016, following democratic  
13 elections that were held on December 6, 2015.

14 (2) Venezuela’s National Constituent Assembly  
15 convened on August 4, 2017, in the aftermath of an  
16 election on July 30, 2017, which was characterized  
17 by widespread fraud and, as a result of administra-  
18 tive processes, failed to comply with the Constitution  
19 of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

20 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
21 gress that actions taken by the Government of Venezuela  
22 that require legislative approval, ratification, or concur-  
23 rence, including the provision or refinancing of debts,  
24 should only be recognized as legitimate by the United  
25 States and the international community if such legislative

1 actions are performed by the democratically elected Na-  
2 tional Assembly of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

3 (c) POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States—

4 (1) to recognize the democratically elected Na-  
5 tional Assembly of Venezuela as the only legitimate  
6 national legislative body in Venezuela; and

7 (2) not to recognize Venezuela’s National Con-  
8 stituent Assembly as a legitimate legislative body.

9 **SEC. 202. ADVANCING A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION TO VEN-**  
10 **EZUELA’S CRISIS.**

11 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
12 gress that—

13 (1) direct, credible negotiations between the  
14 Government of Venezuela and political opposition,  
15 which include democratically elected deputies of the  
16 National Assembly of the Bolivarian Republic of  
17 Venezuela, are supported by stakeholders in the  
18 international diplomatic community, and include the  
19 input and interests of Venezuelan civil society, rep-  
20 resent the best opportunity to reach a solution to the  
21 Venezuelan crisis that includes—

22 (A) restoring democracy and the rule of  
23 law;

24 (B) freeing political prisoners;

1 (C) facilitating the delivery of humani-  
2 tarian aid; and

3 (D) establishing conditions for free and  
4 fair democratic elections;

5 (2) negotiations between the Government of  
6 Venezuela and political opposition that commenced  
7 in October 2017, and were supported by the Govern-  
8 ments of Mexico, Chile, Bolivia, and Nicaragua, did  
9 not result in an agreement because the Government  
10 of Venezuela failed to credibly participate in the  
11 process; and

12 (3) negotiations between the Government of  
13 Venezuela and political opposition that commenced  
14 in October 2016, and were supported by the Vati-  
15 can, did not result in an agreement because the Gov-  
16 ernment of Venezuela failed to credibly participate  
17 in the process.

18 (b) POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States to  
19 support diplomatic engagement in order to advance a ne-  
20 gotiated solution to Venezuela’s political, economic, and  
21 humanitarian crisis that is described in subsection (a)(1).

22 **SEC. 203. SUPPORT FOR THE LIMA GROUP.**

23 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-  
24 ings:

1           (1) The Lima Group is a diplomatic bloc whose  
2 members include Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile,  
3 Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Guyana, Hon-  
4 duras, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, and Saint  
5 Lucia.

6           (2) The Lima Group—

7           (A) has condemned the rupture of the  
8 democratic order in Venezuela;

9           (B) has reaffirmed the authority of the  
10 democratically elected National Assembly of  
11 Venezuela;

12           (C) has rejected Venezuela’s National Con-  
13 stituent Assembly;

14           (D) has called on the Government of Ven-  
15 ezuela to accept humanitarian assistance in  
16 order to address the country’s growing eco-  
17 nomic crisis; and

18           (E) has stated that it does not recognize  
19 the legitimacy of Venezuela’s May 20, 2018,  
20 presidential election as it did not comply with  
21 international standards for a democratic, free,  
22 fair, and transparent process.

23           (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
24 gress that the Secretary of State should conduct diplo-  
25 matic engagement in support of efforts by the Lima Group

1 to restore democracy and the rule of law Venezuela and  
2 facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance for the  
3 Venezuelan people.

4 **SEC. 204. ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CRIMES AGAINST HUMAN-**  
5 **ITY.**

6 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-  
7 ings:

8 (1) On July 25, 2017, the Secretary General of  
9 the Organization of American States stated “the  
10 systematic attack against the civilian population [of  
11 Venezuela] includes murders, imprisonment and tor-  
12 ture, and it is evident in the eyes of the inter-  
13 national community that we are in the presence of  
14 crimes against humanity.”.

15 (2) On September 11, 2017, the United Na-  
16 tions High Commissioner for Human Rights stated  
17 that Venezuelan security forces may have committed  
18 crimes against humanity against protesters and  
19 called for a credible international investigation.

20 (3) A November 29, 2017, report by Human  
21 Rights Watch documented that Venezuelan security  
22 forces had used extreme and, at times, lethal forces  
23 against protesters and, once detained, subjected  
24 them to abuses ranging from severe beatings to tor-

1       ture involving electric shocks, asphyxiation, and  
2       other techniques.

3           (4) On February 8, 2018, the Prosecutor of the  
4       International Criminal Court opened a preliminary  
5       examination of the situation in Venezuela as it re-  
6       lates to Venezuelan security forces using excessive  
7       force against civilians and the political opposition.

8           (5) On May 29, 2018, a panel of independent  
9       international experts convened by the Secretary Gen-  
10      eral of the Organization of American States found  
11      that “there are reasonable grounds that satisfy the  
12      standard of proof required by Article 53 of the  
13      Rome Statute for considering that acts to which the  
14      civilian population of Venezuela was subjected [. . .]  
15      constitute crimes against humanity”.

16      (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
17      gress that the Secretary of State should conduct robust  
18      diplomatic engagement in support of efforts in Venezuela,  
19      and on the part of the international community, to ensure  
20      accountability for possible crimes against humanity and  
21      other violations of international humanitarian law and vio-  
22      lations and abuses of human rights.

23      (c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
24      of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall  
25      submit a report to Congress that—

1           (1) evaluates the degree to which the Govern-  
2           ment of Venezuela and its officials, including mem-  
3           bers of the Venezuelan security force, have engaged  
4           in actions that constitute crimes against humanity  
5           and violations of international humanitarian law;  
6           and

7           (2) provides options for holding accountable the  
8           perpetrators identified under paragraph (1).

9   **TITLE III—SUPPORTING THE RE-**  
10   **CONSTRUCTION OF VEN-**  
11   **EZUELA**

12   **SEC. 301. ENGAGING INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITU-**  
13           **TIONS TO ADVANCE THE RECONSTRUCTION**  
14           **OF VENEZUELA’S ECONOMY AND ENERGY IN-**  
15           **FRASTRUCTURE.**

16           (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Treasury, in  
17           consultation with the Secretary of State and the Secretary  
18           of Energy, should work through the United States Execu-  
19           tive Directors to the International Monetary Fund and the  
20           Multilateral Development Banks to create a framework for  
21           the economic reconstruction of Venezuela, contingent upon  
22           the restoration of democracy and the rule of law in the  
23           country.



1 (b) ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS.—The framework cre-  
2 ated under subsection (a) should include policy pro-  
3 posals—

4 (1) to provide Venezuelans with humanitarian  
5 assistance, poverty alleviation, and a social safety  
6 net;

7 (2) to advance debt restructuring and debt sus-  
8 tainability measures;

9 (3) to restore the production and efficient man-  
10 agement of Venezuela’s oil industry, including re-  
11 building energy infrastructure;

12 (4) to eliminate price controls and market dis-  
13 torting subsidies in the Venezuelan economy; and

14 (5) to address hyperinflation in Venezuela.

15 (c) CONSULTATION.—In creating the framework  
16 under subsection (a), the Secretary of Treasury, the Sec-  
17 retary of State, and the Secretary of Energy shall consult  
18 with relevant stakeholders in the humanitarian, financial  
19 and energy sectors.

20 (d) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
21 gress that any effort to conduct debt restructuring  
22 should—

23 (1) include discussions with China, which is  
24 Venezuela’s biggest creditor; and

1           (2) appropriately account for China’s and Rus-  
2           sia’s high-risk lending to Venezuela.

3           (e) CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary of Treasury may  
4 not support lending or financing from the International  
5 Monetary Fund and the Multilateral Development Banks  
6 until the Secretary of State submits a report to the Com-  
7 mittee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and Committee  
8 on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives certi-  
9 fying that the Government of Venezuela is committed to—

10           (1) restoring democracy and the rule of law;

11           (2) freeing political prisoners;

12           (3) facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid;

13           and

14           (4) establishing conditions for free and fair  
15           democratic elections.

16           (f) BRIEFINGS.—Upon a request from the Committee  
17 on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Committee on  
18 Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, the Com-  
19 mittee on Finance of the Senate, or the Committee on  
20 Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, the  
21 Secretary of Treasury shall brief the requesting committee  
22 on the progress made in implementing the framework cre-  
23 ated under subsection (a).

1 **SEC. 302. RECOVERING ASSETS STOLEN FROM THE VEN-**  
2 **EZUELAN PEOPLE.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-  
4 ings:

5 (1) Venezuela ranked 169th out of 180 coun-  
6 tries in Transparency International’s Corruption  
7 Perception Index 2017.

8 (2) In March 2016, the International Center for  
9 Asset Recovery at the Basel Institute on Governance  
10 in Switzerland estimated that approximately  
11 \$350,000,000,000 in public funding had been lost in  
12 Venezuela as the result of corruption, fraud, and  
13 graft.

14 (3) In March 2015, the Department of the  
15 Treasury’s Financial Crimes Enforcement Network  
16 determined that approximately \$2,000,000,000 had  
17 been siphoned from Venezuela’s public oil company,  
18 *Petróleos de Venezuela, S.A.*, in conjunction with its  
19 designation of the *Banca Privada d’Andorra* as a  
20 Foreign Financial Institution of Primary Money  
21 Laundering Concern.

22 (b) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in coordi-  
23 nation with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Attor-  
24 ney General, shall advance a coordinated international ef-  
25 fort—

1           (1) to carry out special financial investigations  
2 to identify and track assets taken from the people  
3 and institutions of Venezuela through theft, corrup-  
4 tion, money laundering, or other illicit means; and

5           (2) work with foreign governments—

6                 (A) to share financial investigations intel-  
7 ligence, as appropriate;

8                 (B) to block the assets identified pursuant  
9 to paragraph (1); and

10                (C) to advance necessary civil forfeiture  
11 litigation, including providing technical assist-  
12 ance to help governments establish the nec-  
13 essary legal framework to carry out asset for-  
14 feitures.

15           (c) ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS.—The coordinated inter-  
16 national effort described in subsection (b) shall—

17                 (1) include input from—

18                         (A) the Office of Foreign Assets Control of  
19 the Department of the Treasury;

20                         (B) the Financial Crimes Enforcement  
21 Network of the Department of the Treasury;  
22 and

23                         (C) the Money Laundering and Asset Re-  
24 covery Section of the Department of Justice;

1           (2) identify appropriate steps to advance nec-  
2           essary civil forfeiture litigation in the United States;

3           (3) include an assessment of whether the  
4           United States or another member of the inter-  
5           national community should establish a managed  
6           fund to hold the assets identified pursuant to sub-  
7           section (b)(1) that could be returned to a future  
8           democratic government in Venezuela; and

9           (4) include recommendations for new legislative  
10          and regulatory measures in the United States that  
11          would be needed to establish and manage the fund  
12          described in paragraph (3).

13          (d) STRATEGY REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 180  
14          days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
15          retary of State shall submit a strategy for carrying out  
16          the activities described in subsection (b) to—

17                 (1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the  
18                 Senate;

19                 (2) the Committee on Finance of the Senate;

20                 (3) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Sen-  
21                 ate;

22                 (4) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the  
23                 House of Representatives;

24                 (5) the Committee on Ways and Means of the  
25                 House of Representatives; and

1           (6) the Committee on the Judiciary of the  
2           House of Representatives.

3           (e) BRIEFINGS.—Upon a request from 1 of the con-  
4           gressional committees listed in subsection (d), the Sec-  
5           retary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, or the At-  
6           torney General shall brief the requesting committee on the  
7           progress made in implementing the effort described in  
8           subsection (b).

9           **TITLE IV—RESTORING THE**  
10          **RULE OF LAW IN VENEZUELA**

11          **SEC. 401. PUBLIC INFORMATION ABOUT SANCTIONED OFFI-**  
12          **CIALS.**

13          (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the  
14          date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days  
15          thereafter, except as provided in subsection (e), the Sec-  
16          retary of Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of  
17          State, shall submit a report to Congress that describes the  
18          total assessed value of blocked assets of Venezuelans des-  
19          ignated under sanctions authorized under—

20                  (1) the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation  
21          Act (title VIII of Public Law 106–120; 21 U.S.C.  
22          1901 et seq.);

23                  (2) the Venezuela Defense of Human Rights  
24          and Civil Society Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–  
25          278); or

1           (3) Executive Order 13692 (50 U.S.C. 1701  
2       note).

3       (b) ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS.—Reports submitted  
4 under subsection (a) should provide descriptions of specific  
5 cases that are most representative of the endemic corrup-  
6 tion and illicit financial activities occurring in Venezuela.

7       (c) SUBSEQUENT REPORTS.—The Secretary of  
8 Treasury is not required to submit an updated report to  
9 Congress under subsection (a) unless, since the submission  
10 of the preceding report—

11           (1) there has been meaningful change in the  
12       value of blocked assets; or

13           (2) additional individuals have been targeted for  
14       sanctions under the authorities listed in subsection  
15       (a).

16       (d) BRIEFINGS.—If the Secretary of Treasury exer-  
17 cises the exception described in subsection (c), the Sec-  
18 retary of the Treasury, or designee, shall brief Congress  
19 on—

20           (1) the decision to exercise the exception; and

21           (2) information related to the value of blocked  
22       assets described in subsection (a).

23       (e) FORM.—Reports required under this section shall  
24 be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a clas-  
25 sified annex.

1 **SEC. 402. COORDINATING TARGETED SANCTIONS WITH**  
2 **PARTNERS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE**  
3 **AND THE EUROPEAN UNION.**

4 (a) STRENGTHENING SANCTIONS CAPACITY IN LATIN  
5 AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN.—The Secretary of State,  
6 working through the Assistant Secretary of State for Eco-  
7 nomic and Business Affairs and the Assistant Secretary  
8 of State for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement  
9 Affairs, and in coordination with the Secretary of the  
10 Treasury, shall provide technical assistance to partner  
11 governments in Latin America and the Caribbean to assist  
12 such governments in establishing the legislative and regu-  
13 latory frameworks needed to impose targeted sanctions on  
14 Venezuelan officials who—

- 15 (1) are responsible for human rights abuses;  
16 (2) have engaged in public corruption; or  
17 (3) are undermining democratic institutions and  
18 processes in Venezuela.

19 (b) COORDINATING INTERNATIONAL SANCTIONS.—  
20 The Secretary of State shall engage in diplomatic efforts  
21 with partner governments, including the Government of  
22 Canada, governments in the European Union, and govern-  
23 ments in Latin America and the Caribbean, to impose tar-  
24 geted sanctions on Venezuelan officials described in sub-  
25 section (a).



1 (c) STRATEGY REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 90  
2 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
3 retary of State shall submit a strategy for carrying out  
4 the activities described in subsection (a) to—

5 (1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the  
6 Senate;

7 (2) the Committee on Appropriations of the  
8 Senate;

9 (3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the  
10 House of Representatives; and

11 (4) the Committee on Appropriations of the  
12 House of Representatives.

13 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be  
15 appropriated, to the International Narcotics Control  
16 and Law Enforcement account, \$3,000,000 for fiscal  
17 year 2019 to carry out the activities set forth in sub-  
18 section (a) in accordance with this section.

19 (2) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—

20 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided  
21 under subparagraph (B), amounts appropriated  
22 or otherwise made available pursuant to para-  
23 graph (1) may not be obligated until 15 days  
24 after the date on which the President provides

1 notice to the committees listed in subsection (c)  
2 of intent to obligate such funds.

3 (B) WAIVER.—

4 (i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of  
5 State may waive the requirement under  
6 subparagraph (A) if the Secretary of State  
7 determines that such waiver is in the na-  
8 tional interest of the United States.

9 (ii) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—If  
10 a waiver is invoked under clause (i), the  
11 President shall notify the committees listed  
12 in subsection (c) of the intention to obli-  
13 gate funds under this section as early as  
14 practicable, but not later than 3 days after  
15 taking the action to which such notification  
16 requirement was applicable in the context  
17 of the circumstances necessitating such  
18 waiver.

19 (e) TRANSFER AUTHORITY.—The Assistant Sec-  
20 retary of State for International Narcotics and Law En-  
21 forcement Affairs may transfer funding to the Assistant  
22 Secretary of State for Economic and Business Affairs, as  
23 necessary, to implement the strategy described in sub-  
24 section (c).

1 (f) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 180  
2 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annu-  
3 ally thereafter, the Secretary of State, in consultation with  
4 the Secretary of Treasury, shall brief the Committee on  
5 Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Committee on Bank-  
6 ing, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate, the Com-  
7 mittee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives,  
8 and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of  
9 Representatives that provides an assessment of the efforts  
10 to strengthen sanctions capabilities and coordinate inter-  
11 national sanctions in accordance with this section.

12 **SEC. 403. FINANCIAL SANCTIONS ON VENEZUELAN GOV-**  
13 **ERNMENT DEBT.**

14 (a) FINDING.—Executive Order 13808 (82 Fed. Reg.  
15 41155), which was signed on August 24, 2017, established  
16 sanctions against the Government of Venezuela’s ability  
17 to issue public debt.

18 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19 (1) ENTITY.—The term “entity” means a part-  
20 nership, association, trust, joint venture, corpora-  
21 tion, group, subgroup, or other organization.

22 (2) GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA.—The term  
23 “Government of Venezuela” means the Government  
24 of Venezuela, any political subdivision, agency, or in-  
25 strumentality of such government, including the

1 Central Bank of Venezuela and Petróleos de Ven-  
2 ezuela, S.A., and any person owned or controlled by,  
3 or acting for or on behalf of, such government.

4 (3) PERSON.—The term “person” means an in-  
5 dividual or entity.

6 (4) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term  
7 “United States person” means any—

8 (A) United States citizen;

9 (B) alien lawfully admitted for permanent  
10 residence to the United States;

11 (C) entity organized under the laws of the  
12 United States or any jurisdiction within the  
13 United States (including a foreign branch of  
14 any such entity); and

15 (D) any person physically located in the  
16 United States.

17 (e) IN GENERAL.—The President may prohibit, in  
18 the United States or by a United States person—

19 (1) any transaction related to, provision of fi-  
20 nancing for, or other dealing in—

21 (A) debt instruments with a maturity of  
22 greater than 90 days issued by Petróleos de  
23 Venezuela, S.A., on or after the date of the en-  
24 actment of this Act;

1 (B) debt instruments with a maturity of  
2 greater than 30 days or equity issued by the  
3 Government of Venezuela on or after the date  
4 of the enactment of this Act, excluding debt in-  
5 struments issued by *Petróleos de Venezuela,*  
6 *S.A.*, that are not covered under subparagraph  
7 (A);

8 (C) bonds issued by the Government of  
9 Venezuela before the date of the enactment of  
10 this Act; or

11 (D) dividend payments or other distribu-  
12 tions of profits to the Government of Venezuela  
13 from any entity owned or controlled, directly or  
14 indirectly, by the Government of Venezuela;

15 (2) the direct or indirect purchase of securities  
16 from the Government of Venezuela, except for—

17 (A) securities qualifying as debt instru-  
18 ments issued by *Petróleos de Venezuela, S.A.*,  
19 on or after the date of the enactment of this  
20 Act that are not described in paragraph (1)(A);  
21 and

22 (B) securities qualifying as debt instru-  
23 ments issued by the Government of Venezuela  
24 on or after the date of the enactment of this  
25 Act that are not described in paragraph (1)(B);

1           (3) any transaction that evades or avoids, has  
2           the purpose of evading or avoiding, causes a viola-  
3           tion of, or attempts to violate a prohibition under  
4           paragraph (1) or (2); and

5           (4) any conspiracy to violate a prohibition  
6           under paragraph (1), (2), or (3).

7           (d) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
8           gress that the President should waive the prohibitions de-  
9           scribed in subsection (c) if the related debt instruments,  
10          bonds, or securities have been approved or ratified by the  
11          democratically elected National Assembly of the  
12          Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.

13          (e) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

14           (1) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may ex-  
15           ercise all authorities described in sections 203 and  
16           205 of the International Emergency Economic Pow-  
17           ers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this  
18           section.

19           (2) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, at-  
20           tempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a  
21           violation of this section or any regulation, license, or  
22           order issued to carry out this section shall be subject  
23           to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c)  
24           of section 206 of the International Emergency Eco-  
25           nomic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same ex-

1       tent as a person that commits an unlawful act de-  
2       scribed in subsection (a) of that section.

3 **SEC. 404. EXCEPTIONS FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.**

4       (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5           (1) AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY.—The term  
6       “agricultural commodity” has the meaning given  
7       that term in section 102 of the Agricultural Trade  
8       Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5602).

9           (2) GOOD.—The term “good” has the meaning  
10       given that term in section 16 of the Export Adminis-  
11       tration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. 4618) (as continued  
12       in effect pursuant to the International Emergency  
13       Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.)).

14           (3) MEDICAL DEVICE.—The term “medical de-  
15       vice” has the meaning given the term “device” in  
16       section 201 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cos-  
17       metic Act (21 U.S.C. 321).

18           (4) MEDICINE.—The term “medicine” has the  
19       meaning given the term “drug” in section 201 of the  
20       Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C.  
21       321).

22       (b) IN GENERAL.—The conduct or facilitation of a  
23       transaction for the sale of agricultural commodities, food,  
24       medicine, or medical devices to Venezuela or for the provi-  
25       sion of humanitarian assistance to the people of Ven-

1 ezuela, including engaging in a financial transaction relat-  
2 ing to humanitarian assistance or for humanitarian pur-  
3 poses or transporting goods or services that are necessary  
4 to carry out operations relating to humanitarian assist-  
5 ance or humanitarian purposes, regardless of whether the  
6 transactions or provision of humanitarian assistance origi-  
7 nate in, or have a connection to, the United States, shall  
8 be exempt from sanctions described in sections 402, 405,  
9 406, and 501 of this Act, the Venezuela Defense of  
10 Human Rights and Civil Society Act of 2014 (Public Law  
11 113–278); and Executive Orders 13692 (50 U.S.C. 1701  
12 note), 13808, 13827, and 13835.

13 (c) IMPLEMENTATION.—In carrying out this Act, the  
14 President may exercise all authorities provided under sec-  
15 tions 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Eco-  
16 nomic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704).

17 (d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act  
18 may be construed to limit the authority of the President  
19 under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act  
20 (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).



1 **TITLE V—CRYPTOCURRENCY**  
2 **SANCTIONS AND ENSURING**  
3 **THE EFFECTIVENESS OF**  
4 **UNITED STATES SANCTIONS**

5 **SEC. 501. SANCTIONS ON VENEZUELA’S CRYPTOCURRENCY**  
6 **AND THE PROVISION OF RELATED TECH-**  
7 **NOLOGIES.**

8 (a) FINDING.—Executive Order 13827 (83 Fed. Reg.  
9 12469), which was signed on March 19, 2018, established  
10 sanctions against the Government of Venezuela’s ability  
11 to issue a digital currency in an effort to circumvent  
12 United States sanctions.

13 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

14 (1) ENTITY.—The term “entity” means a part-  
15 nership, association, trust, joint venture, corpora-  
16 tion, group, subgroup, or other organization.

17 (2) GOVERNMENT OF VENEZUELA.—The term  
18 “Government of Venezuela” means the Government  
19 of Venezuela, any political subdivision, agency, or in-  
20 strumentality of such government, including the  
21 Central Bank of Venezuela and Petróleos de Ven-  
22 ezuela, S.A., and any person owned or controlled by,  
23 or acting for or on behalf of, such government.

24 (3) PERSON.—The term “person” means an in-  
25 dividual or entity.

1           (4) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term  
2 “United States person” means any—

3           (A) United States citizen;

4           (B) alien lawfully admitted for permanent  
5 residence to the United States;

6           (C) entity organized under the laws of the  
7 United States or any jurisdiction within the  
8 United States (including a foreign branch of  
9 any such entity); and

10           (D) any person physically located in the  
11 United States.

12 (c) PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS.—

13           (1) IN GENERAL.—All transactions by a United  
14 States person or within the United States that relate  
15 to, provide financing for, provide software for, or  
16 otherwise deal in any digital currency, digital coin,  
17 or digital token, that was issued by, for, or on behalf  
18 of the Government of Venezuela are prohibited be-  
19 ginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

20           (2) APPLICABILITY.—The prohibitions under  
21 paragraph (1) shall apply to the extent provided by  
22 statutes, or in regulations, orders, directives, or li-  
23 censes that may be issued pursuant to this Act, and  
24 notwithstanding any contract entered into or any li-

1       cense or permit granted before the date of the enact-  
2       ment of this Act.

3           (3) PROHIBITIONS.—Any transaction that  
4       evades or avoids, has the purpose of evading or  
5       avoiding, causes a violation of, or attempts to violate  
6       any of the prohibitions set forth in this subsection  
7       is prohibited. Any conspiracy formed to violate any  
8       of the prohibitions set forth in this subsection is pro-  
9       hibited.

10       (d) RULEMAKING.—

11           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treas-  
12       ury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, is  
13       authorized to take such actions, including promul-  
14       gating rules and regulations, to implement this sec-  
15       tion.

16           (2) DELEGATION.—The Secretary of the Treas-  
17       ury may redelegate any of the functions described in  
18       paragraph (1) to other officers and executive depart-  
19       ments and agencies of the United States Govern-  
20       ment. All agencies of the United States Government  
21       shall take all appropriate measures within their au-  
22       thority to carry out the provisions of this section.

1 **SEC. 502. REPORT ON THE IMPACT OF**  
2 **CRYPTOCURRENCIES ON UNITED STATES**  
3 **SANCTIONS.**

4 (a) **DEFINED TERM.**—In this section, the term “ap-  
5 propriate congressional committees” means—

6 (1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the  
7 Senate;

8 (2) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and  
9 Urban Affairs of the Senate;

10 (3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the  
11 House of Representatives; and

12 (4) the Committee on Financial Services of the  
13 House of Representatives.

14 (b) **REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 180  
15 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
16 retary of State, after consultation with the Secretary of  
17 the Treasury, the Chairman of the Securities and Ex-  
18 change Commission, and the Chairman of the Commodity  
19 Futures Trading Commission, shall submit a report to the  
20 appropriate congressional committees that provides an as-  
21 sessment on how digital currencies affect the effectiveness  
22 of United States sanctions around the world.

23 (c) **ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS.**—The report submitted  
24 under subsection (b) shall—

25 (1) describe any global efforts, including efforts  
26 by states, state-sponsored actors, and non-state-

1 sponsored actors, to utilize digital currencies to  
2 evade or circumvent United States sanctions, includ-  
3 ing through the direct or indirect use of products or  
4 services of United States based technology, software,  
5 or financial services firms; and

6 (2) include recommendations for new legislative  
7 and regulatory measures needed to strengthen the  
8 United States Government’s ability to prevent  
9 states, state-sponsored actors, and non-state-spon-  
10 sored actors from using digital currencies to evade  
11 or circumvent United States sanctions, including  
12 through the direct or indirect use of products or  
13 services of United States based technology, software,  
14 or financial services firms.

15 (d) FORM.—The report submitted under subsection  
16 (b) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may in-  
17 clude a classified annex.

## 18 **TITLE VI—TERMINATION**

### 19 **SEC. 601. EXTENSION AND TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS** 20 **AGAINST VENEZUELA.**

21 (a) AMENDMENT.—Section 5(e) of the Venezuela De-  
22 fense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act of 2014  
23 (Public Law 113–278; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended  
24 by striking “December 31, 2019” and inserting “Decem-  
25 ber 31, 2025”.

1           (b) TERMINATION.—The requirement to impose sanc-  
2 tions under this Act shall terminate on December 31,  
3 2025.

○