

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 353

---

## AN ACT

To direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to regain observer status for Taiwan in the World Health Organization, 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. PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN IN THE WORLD**  
2 **HEALTH ORGANIZATION.**

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

5 (1) The World Health Organization (WHO) is  
6 a specialized agency of the United Nations, charged  
7 with coordinating health efforts within the United  
8 Nations system. The World Health Assembly  
9 (WHA) is the decision-making body of the WHO,  
10 which convenes annually in May to set the policies  
11 and priorities of the organization. Statehood is not  
12 a requirement for attendance at the WHA, and nu-  
13 merous observers, including non-members and non-  
14 governmental organizations, attended the most re-  
15 cent WHA in May 2018.

16 (2) Taiwan began seeking to participate in the  
17 WHO as an observer in 1997. In 2009, with strong  
18 support from successive United States Administra-  
19 tions, Congress, and like-minded WHO Member  
20 States, and during a period of improved Cross-Strait  
21 relations, Taiwan received an invitation to attend  
22 the WHA as an observer under the name “Chinese  
23 Taipei”. Taiwan received the same invitation each  
24 year until 2016, when following the election of Presi-  
25 dent Tsai-Ing Wen of the Democratic Progressive  
26 Party, Taiwan’s engagement in the international

1 community began facing increased resistance from  
2 the People’s Republic of China (PRC). Taiwan’s in-  
3 vitation to the 2016 WHA was received late and in-  
4 cluded new language conditioning Taiwan’s partici-  
5 pation on the PRC’s “one China principle”. In 2017  
6 and 2018, Taiwan did not receive an invitation to  
7 the WHA.

8 (3) Taiwan remains a model contributor to  
9 world health, having provided financial and technical  
10 assistance to respond to numerous global health  
11 challenges. Taiwan has invested over \$6 billion in  
12 international medical and humanitarian aid efforts  
13 impacting over 80 countries since 1996. In 2014,  
14 Taiwan responded to the Ebola crisis by donating \$1  
15 million and providing 100,000 sets of personal pro-  
16 tective equipment. Through the Global Cooperation  
17 and Training Framework, the United States and  
18 Taiwan have jointly conducted training programs for  
19 experts to combat MERS, Dengue Fever, and Zika.  
20 These diseases know no borders, and Taiwan’s need-  
21 less exclusion from global health cooperation in-  
22 creases the dangers presented by global pandemics.

23 (4) Taiwan’s international engagement has  
24 faced increased resistance from the PRC. Taiwan  
25 was not invited to the 2016 Assembly of the Inter-

1 national Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), despite  
2 participating as a guest at the organization's prior  
3 summit in 2013. Taiwan's requests to participate in  
4 the General Assembly of the International Criminal  
5 Police Organization (INTERPOL) have also been  
6 rejected. In May 2017, PRC delegates disrupted a  
7 meeting of the Kimberley Process on conflict dia-  
8 monds held in Perth, Australia, until delegates from  
9 Taiwan were asked to leave. Since 2016, the Demo-  
10 cratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe, the Re-  
11 public of Panama, the Dominican Republic, Burkina  
12 Faso, and the Republic of El Salvador have termi-  
13 nated longstanding diplomatic relationships with  
14 Taiwan and granted diplomatic recognition to the  
15 PRC.

16 (5) Congress has established a policy of support  
17 for Taiwan's participation in international bodies  
18 that address shared transnational challenges, par-  
19 ticularly in the WHO. Congress passed H.R. 1794  
20 in the 106th Congress, H.R. 428 in the 107th Con-  
21 gress, and S. 2092 in the 108th Congress to direct  
22 the Secretary of State to establish a strategy for,  
23 and to report annually to Congress on, efforts to ob-  
24 tain observer status for Taiwan at the WHA. Con-  
25 gress also passed H.R. 1151 in the 113th Congress,

1 directing the Secretary to report on a strategy to  
2 gain observer status for Taiwan at the ICAO Assem-  
3 bly, and H.R. 1853 in the 114th Congress, directing  
4 the Secretary to report on a strategy to gain ob-  
5 server status for Taiwan at the INTERPOL Assem-  
6 bly. However, since 2016 Taiwan has not received  
7 an invitation to attend any of these events as an ob-  
8 server.

9 (b) AUGMENTATION OF REPORT CONCERNING THE  
10 PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN IN THE WORLD HEALTH OR-  
11 GANIZATION.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 1  
13 of Public Law 108–235 (118 Stat. 656) is amended  
14 by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

15 “(3) An account of the changes and improve-  
16 ments the Secretary of State has made to the  
17 United States plan to endorse and obtain observer  
18 status for Taiwan at the World Health Assembly,  
19 following any annual meetings of the World Health  
20 Assembly at which Taiwan did not obtain observer  
21 status.”.

22 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made  
23 by paragraph (1) shall take effect and apply begin-  
24 ning with the first report required under subsection

1 (c) of section 1 of Public Law 108–235 that is sub-  
2 mitted after the date of the enactment of this Act.  
Passed the House of Representatives January 22,  
2019.

Attest:

*Clerk.*



116<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

**H. R. 353**

---

**AN ACT**

To direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to regain observer status for Taiwan in the World Health Organization, and for other purposes.