

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7519

To amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to authorize rewards for providing information on foreign election interference, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 9, 2020

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

A BILL

To amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to authorize rewards for providing information on foreign election interference, 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 “Rewards for Providing
5 Information on Foreign Election Interference Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF REWARDS FOR PROVIDING IN-**
2 **FORMATION ON FOREIGN ELECTION INTER-**
3 **FERENCE.**

4 Section 36 of the State Department Basic Authorities
5 Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2708) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a)(2), by inserting “foreign
7 election interference,” before “transnational orga-
8 nized crime”;

9 (2) in subsection (b)—

10 (A) in paragraph (5), by striking “or (10)”
11 and inserting “(10), or (13)”;

12 (B) in paragraph (11), by striking “or”
13 after the semicolon at the end;

14 (C) in paragraph (12)—

15 (i) by striking “sections” and insert-
16 ing “section”;

17 (ii) by striking “or (b)(1)” and insert-
18 ing “or 2914(b)(1)”;

19 (iii) by striking the period at the end
20 and inserting “; or”; and

21 (D) by adding at the end the following new
22 paragraph:

23 “(13) the identification or location of a foreign
24 person that knowingly engaged or is engaging in for-
25 eign election interference.”; and

26 (3) in subsection (k)—

1 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (3)
2 through (8) as paragraphs (5) through (10), re-
3 spectively;

4 (B) by inserting after paragraph (2) the
5 following new paragraphs:

6 “(3) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term ‘foreign per-
7 son’ means—

8 “(A) an individual who is not a United
9 States person; or

10 “(B) a foreign entity.

11 “(4) FOREIGN ELECTION INTERFERENCE.—The
12 term ‘foreign election interference’ means conduct by
13 a foreign person that—

14 “(A)(i) violates Federal criminal, voting
15 rights, or campaign finance law; or

16 “(ii) is performed by any person act-
17 ing as an agent of or on behalf of a foreign
18 government or criminal enterprise; and

19 “(B) includes any covert, fraudulent, de-
20 ceptive, or unlawful act or attempted act, or
21 knowing use of information acquired by theft,
22 undertaken with the purpose or effect of under-
23 mining public confidence in election processes
24 or institutions, or influencing, undermining con-
25 fidence in, or altering the result or reported re-

1 sult of, a general or primary Federal, State, or
2 local election or caucus, including—
3 “(i) the campaign of a candidate; or
4 “(ii) a ballot measure, including an
5 amendment, a bond issue, an initiative, a
6 recall, a referral, or a referendum.”; and
7 (C) in paragraph (10), as so redesignated,
8 in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” after
9 the semicolon and inserting “or”.

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