

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5574

To support Lebanon’s rule of law and democratic institutions through sanctions, grants, and scholarships, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 17 (legislative day, DECEMBER 16), 2024

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. REED) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To support Lebanon’s rule of law and democratic institutions through sanctions, grants, and scholarships, 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 TITLES; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLES.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Preventing the Undermining of Lebanon’s Sovereignty
6 and Economy Act” or the “PULSE Act”.

7 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
8 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short titles; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Sense of Congress.

- Sec. 3. Statement of policy.
- Sec. 4. Codification of certain sanctions with respect to persons undermining the sovereignty of Lebanon or its democratic processes and institutions.
- Sec. 5. Sanctions with respect to certain foreign persons that undermine democratic institutions or processes in Lebanon.
- Sec. 6. Authorization of humanitarian and development assistance for Lebanon.
- Sec. 7. Authorization of appropriations for security assistance to the Lebanese Armed Forces and the Internal Security Forces Directorate.
- Sec. 8. Authorization of appropriations for incentive fund for the reconstruction of Lebanese Government services and infrastructure.
- Sec. 9. Lokman Slim Excellence in Lebanese Investigative Journalism Award.
- Sec. 10. Countering the production and trafficking of captagon from and through Lebanon.
- Sec. 11. Livelihood and scholarship assistance to the Lebanese Armed Forces and the Internal Security Forces Directorate.
- Sec. 12. Education for Lebanese host communities.

1 SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

2 It is the sense of Congress that—

3 (1) political and economic stability in Lebanon
4 is important for regional stability and the national
5 security of the United States;

6 (2) continuing security assistance to the Leba-
7 nese Armed Forces and Internal Security Forces Di-
8 rectorate is—

9 (A) vital to Lebanese and regional stability
10 and security; and

11 (B) in the national security interest of the
12 United States;

13 (3) the Lebanese Armed Forces and the Inter-
14 nal Security Forces of Lebanon are the legitimate
15 guarantors of Lebanese sovereignty and security;

16 (4) the implementation of United Nations Secu-
17 rity Council Resolution 1701 (2006) is vital to Leba-

1 nese security and sovereignty, Israeli security, and
2 stability throughout the region;

3 (5) the selection of a president, in accordance
4 with the rules set forth in the Constitution of Leb-
5 anon, is critical to the economic and political sta-
6 bility of Lebanon;

7 (6) Politicians aligned with Hezbollah have un-
8 dermined Lebanon's democracy by failing to hold
9 special sessions of parliament long enough to select
10 a president;

11 (7) the Government of Lebanon must imple-
12 ment economic reforms mandated by the Inter-
13 national Monetary Fund as soon as possible, includ-
14 ing capital controls that are applicable to all Leba-
15 nese citizens;

16 (8) members of the Parliament of Lebanon who
17 undermine Lebanese democracy by preventing the
18 selection of a president should be subject to sanc-
19 tions from the United States;

20 (9) the production and trafficking of captagon
21 in and through Lebanon enriches criminal gangs and
22 terrorists, including Hezbollah, at the expense of re-
23 gional stability and Lebanese exports;

1 (10) supporting Lebanese host communities
2 alongside Syrian refugees is important for the health
3 and well-being of both communities; and

4 (11) those responsible for the August 4, 2020
5 explosion at the Port of Beirut must be held ac-
6 countable through—

7 (A) a timely and unobstructed investiga-
8 tion by Judge Tarek Bitar; or

9 (B) an independent outside investigation
10 under the auspices of the United Nations.

11 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

12 It is the policy of the United States—

13 (1) to support Lebanon’s rule of law and demo-
14 cratic institutions by advocating for the timely selec-
15 tion of a president and government that are free
16 from corruption in a process that is in accordance
17 with the Constitution of Lebanon, including by con-
18 tinuing to impose sanctions on foreign persons who
19 have undermined democracy and the rule of law in
20 Lebanon;

21 (2) to support the aspirations of the Lebanese
22 people to live—

23 (A) in peace, security, and prosperity; and

24 (B) free from the influence of Iran and
25 terrorist groups, such as Hezbollah, which have

1 sought for decades to shape the security and
2 political dynamics within Lebanon;

3 (3) to assist the full implementation of United
4 Nations Security Council Resolutions 1559 (2004)
5 and 1701 (2006), including by increasing the capac-
6 ity of the Lebanese Armed Forces to work with the
7 appropriate United Nations monitoring missions to
8 ensure the removal of weapons from non-state
9 groups in designated areas;

10 (4) to counter—

11 (A) the build-up of rockets in southern
12 Lebanon by Hezbollah and other Iranian proxy
13 forces, such as Hamas and the Palestinian Is-
14 lamic Jihad; and

15 (B) the placement of such rockets in and
16 among the civilian population of southern Leb-
17 anon;

18 (5) to support and build the capacity of the
19 Lebanese Armed Forces and the Internal Security
20 Forces Directorate as the defenders of Lebanon's
21 territory and sovereignty, including through the con-
22 tinuing provision of security and livelihood assist-
23 ance;

1 (6) to support Syrian refugee and Lebanese
 2 host communities in Lebanon through the provision
 3 of economic and humanitarian assistance;

4 (7) to support and strengthen civilian state in-
 5 stitutions, infrastructure, and the provision of gov-
 6 ernment services for all the Lebanese people, regard-
 7 less of religion, sect, or ethnicity;

8 (8) to support the independence of Lebanese
 9 state institutions from non-state actors and malign
 10 foreign influence;

11 (9) to increase the capacity of Lebanese state
 12 institutions to counter the production and trafficking
 13 of captagon in and through Lebanese territory;

14 (10) to support efforts to hold accountable
 15 those responsible for the August 4, 2020 explosion
 16 at the Port of Beirut; and

17 (11) to support Lebanese civil society, including
 18 independent journalism and investigative journalists.

19 **SEC. 4. CODIFICATION OF CERTAIN SANCTIONS WITH RE-**
 20 **SPECT TO PERSONS UNDERMINING THE SOV-**
 21 **EREIGNTY OF LEBANON OR ITS DEMOCRATIC**
 22 **PROCESSES AND INSTITUTIONS.**

23 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

24 (1) AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY.—The term
 25 “agricultural commodity” has the meaning given

1 such term in section 102 of the Agricultural Trade
2 Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5602).

3 (2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
4 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
5 gress” means—

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

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

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

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

14 (3) GOOD.—The term “good” means any arti-
15 cle, natural or manmade substance, material, supply,
16 or manufactured product, including inspection and
17 test equipment, and excluding technical data.

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

22 (5) MEDICINE.—The term “medicine” has the
23 meaning given the term “drug” in section 201 of the
24 Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C.
25 321).

1 (b) IN GENERAL.—Each person listed or designated
2 for the imposition of sanctions under Executive Order
3 13441 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note; relating to blocking property
4 of persons undermining the sovereignty of Lebanon or its
5 democratic processes and institutions) as of the date of
6 the enactment of this Act shall remain so designated ex-
7 cept as provided in subsections (c) and (d).

8 (c) EXCEPTIONS.—

9 (1) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF
10 GOODS.—A requirement to block and prohibit all
11 transactions in all property and interests in property
12 pursuant to sanctions under subsection (b) shall not
13 include the authority or a requirement to impose
14 sanctions on the importation of goods.

15 (2) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH THE UNITED
16 NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT AND LAW EN-
17 FORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions under sub-
18 section (b) shall not apply with respect to the admis-
19 sion of an alien to the United States if admitting or
20 paroling the alien into the United States is nec-
21 essary—

22 (A) to permit the United States to comply
23 with the Agreement regarding the Head-
24 quarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake
25 Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force

1 November 21, 1947, between the United Na-
2 tions and the United States, or other applicable
3 international obligations of the United States;
4 or

5 (B) to carry out or assist authorized law
6 enforcement activity in the United States.

7 (3) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTEL-
8 LIGENCE ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions under subsection
9 (b) shall not apply with respect to—

10 (A) any activity subject to the reporting
11 requirements under title V of the National Se-
12 curity Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.); or

13 (B) any authorized intelligence activities of
14 the United States.

15 (4) HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.—Sanctions
16 under subsection (b) shall not apply with respect
17 to—

18 (A) the conduct or facilitation of a trans-
19 action for the provision of agricultural commod-
20 ities, food, medicine, medical devices, or human-
21 itarian assistance, or for humanitarian pur-
22 poses; or

23 (B) transactions that are necessary for, or
24 related to, the activities described in subpara-
25 graph (A).

1 (d) TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS.—The President
 2 may terminate the application of sanctions under sub-
 3 section (b) with respect to a person if the President cer-
 4 tifies to the appropriate committees of Congress that—

5 (1) such person—

6 (A) is not engaging in the activity that was
 7 the basis for such sanctions; or

8 (B) has taken significant, verifiable steps
 9 toward stopping the activity that was the basis
 10 for such sanctions; and

11 (2) the President has received reliable assur-
 12 ances that such person will not knowingly engage in
 13 any activity subject to sanctions in the future.

14 **SEC. 5. SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN FOREIGN**
 15 **PERSONS THAT UNDERMINE DEMOCRATIC**
 16 **INSTITUTIONS OR PROCESSES IN LEBANON.**

17 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 (1) ADMISSION; ADMITTED; ALIEN; LAWFULLY
 19 ADMITTED FOR PERMANENT RESIDENCE.—The
 20 terms “admission”, “admitted”, “alien”, and “law-
 21 fully admitted for permanent residence” have the
 22 meanings given such terms in section 101 of the Im-
 23 migration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

24 (2) AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY.—The term
 25 “agricultural commodity” has the meaning given

1 such term in section 102 of the Agricultural Trade
2 Act of 1978 (7 U.S.C. 5602).

3 (3) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
4 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
5 gress” means—

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

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

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

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

14 (4) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term “foreign per-
15 son” means an individual or entity that is not a
16 United States person.

17 (5) GOOD.—The term “good” means any arti-
18 cle, natural or manmade substance, material, supply,
19 or manufactured product, including inspection and
20 test equipment, and excluding technical data.

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

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

5 (8) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term
6 “United States person” means—

7 (A) a United States citizen or an alien law-
8 fully admitted for permanent residence to the
9 United States;

10 (B) an entity organized under the laws of
11 the United States or any jurisdiction within the
12 United States, including a foreign branch of
13 such an entity; or

14 (C) any person located in the United
15 States.

16 (b) IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date that
18 is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this
19 Act, the President shall impose the sanctions de-
20 scribed in subsection (c) with respect to a foreign
21 person that the President determines—

22 (A) knowingly engages, on or after such
23 date of enactment, in an activity described in
24 paragraph (2) that significantly undermines the
25 Government of Lebanon from operating con-

1 sistent with the rule of law and democratic pro-
2 cedures;

3 (B) is an adult family member of a foreign
4 person described in subparagraph (A), unless
5 the President determines there is credible infor-
6 mation that such adult family member has dis-
7 associated himself or herself from such foreign
8 person; or

9 (C) is owned or controlled by a foreign per-
10 son described in subparagraph (A).

11 (2) ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.—A foreign person
12 engages in an activity described in this paragraph if
13 the foreign person—

14 (A) is a senior member of the Lebanese
15 Parliament who undermines the rule of law and
16 democratic institutions in the Republic of Leb-
17 anon by interfering with or otherwise delaying
18 a special parliamentary session for the purpose
19 of nominating and selecting a President of the
20 Republic of Lebanon when that action is in-
21 tended to block a known consensus candidate
22 for President with the intent to—

23 (i) deny such a session a quorum as
24 required in article 49 of the Lebanese con-
25 stitution; and

1 (ii) prevent a simple majority vote to
2 select a President of the Republic of Leb-
3 anon in accordance with article 49 of the
4 Lebanese constitution; or

5 (B) undermines the rule of law in the Re-
6 public of Lebanon by delaying or otherwise in-
7 hibiting lawful investigations, including an in-
8 vestigation into the August 4, 2020, explosion
9 of the Port of Beirut.

10 (c) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—

11 (1) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—The President
12 shall exercise all of the powers granted to the Presi-
13 dent under the International Emergency Economic
14 Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent
15 necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in
16 property and interests in property of a foreign per-
17 son described in subsection (b) if such property and
18 interests in property are in the United States, come
19 within the United States, or are or come within the
20 possession or control of a United States person.

21 (2) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR
22 PAROLE.—

23 (A) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—An
24 alien described in subsection (b) is—

25 (i) inadmissible to the United States;

1 (ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other
2 documentation to enter the United States;
3 and

4 (iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted
5 or paroled into the United States or to re-
6 ceive any other benefit under the Immigra-
7 tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et
8 seq.).

9 (B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

10 (i) IN GENERAL.—An alien described
11 in subsection (b) is subject to revocation of
12 any visa or other entry documentation re-
13 gardless of when the visa or other entry
14 documentation is or was issued.

15 (ii) IMMEDIATE EFFECT.—A revoca-
16 tion under clause (i) shall—

17 (I) take effect immediately; and

18 (II) automatically cancel any
19 other valid visa or entry documenta-
20 tion that is in the possession of the
21 alien.

22 (d) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, attempts to
23 violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of this
24 section or any regulation, license, or order issued to carry
25 out this section shall be subject to the penalties set forth

1 in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the Inter-
2 national Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C.
3 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an
4 unlawful act described in subsection (a) of such section.

5 (e) EXCEPTIONS.—

6 (1) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF
7 GOODS.—A requirement to block and prohibit all
8 transactions in all property and interests in property
9 pursuant to sanctions under subsection (b) shall not
10 include the authority or a requirement to impose
11 sanctions on the importation of goods.

12 (2) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH THE UNITED
13 NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT AND LAW EN-
14 FORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions under sub-
15 section (b) shall not apply with respect to the admis-
16 sion of an alien to the United States if admitting or
17 paroling the alien into the United States is nec-
18 essary—

19 (A) to permit the United States to comply
20 with the Agreement regarding the Head-
21 quarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake
22 Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force
23 November 21, 1947, between the United Na-
24 tions and the United States, or other applicable

1 international obligations of the United States;
2 or

3 (B) to carry out or assist authorized law
4 enforcement activity in the United States.

5 (3) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTEL-
6 LIGENCE ACTIVITIES.—Sanctions under subsection
7 (b) shall not apply with respect to—

8 (A) any activity subject to the reporting
9 requirements under title V of the National Se-
10 curity Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.); or

11 (B) any authorized intelligence activities of
12 the United States.

13 (4) HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.—Sanctions
14 under subsection (b) shall not apply with respect
15 to—

16 (A) the conduct or facilitation of a trans-
17 action for the provision of agricultural commod-
18 ities, food, medicine, medical devices, or human-
19 itarian assistance, or for humanitarian pur-
20 poses; or

21 (B) transactions that are necessary for, or
22 related to, the activities described in subpara-
23 graph (A).

24 (f) NATIONAL INTEREST WAIVER.—The President
25 may waive the application of sanctions under subsection

1 (b) with respect to a foreign person if the President deter-
2 mines and reports to the appropriate committees of Con-
3 gress, not later than 15 days before such waiver is to take
4 effect, that the waiver is in the national interest of the
5 United States.

6 (g) TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS.—The President
7 may terminate the application of sanctions under sub-
8 section (b) with respect to a foreign person if the Presi-
9 dent certifies to the appropriate committees of Congress
10 that—

11 (1) such person—

12 (A) is not engaging in the activity that was
13 the basis for such sanctions; or

14 (B) has taken significant, verifiable steps
15 toward stopping the activity that was the basis
16 for such sanctions; and

17 (2) the President has received reliable assur-
18 ances that such person will not knowingly engage in
19 any activity subject to sanctions in the future.

20 (h) SUNSET.—This section shall cease to be effective
21 beginning on the date that is 3 years after the date of
22 the enactment of this Act.

1 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF HUMANITARIAN AND DEVEL-**
2 **OPMENT ASSISTANCE FOR LEBANON.**

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

5 (1) the people of Lebanon have hosted an esti-
6 mated 1,500,000 Syrian refugees since the Syrian
7 civil war began in 2011, sheltering them from the
8 brutality of the Assad regime and its Russian and
9 Iranian enablers;

10 (2) the chronic nature of the Syrian conflict
11 and the inability of Syrian refugees to safely return
12 home has strained the Lebanese economy and the
13 services provided by the Government of Lebanon;

14 (3) the people of Lebanon have been severely
15 harmed by the combination of the Lebanese financial
16 crisis and the Port of Beirut explosion on August 4,
17 2020, making them even more vulnerable during the
18 conflict between Israel and Hezbollah; and

19 (4) more than 1,000,000 civilians in Lebanon
20 have been internally displaced due to the recent
21 fighting with insufficient time to develop a coordi-
22 nated humanitarian response.

23 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF ASSISTANCE.—The Adminis-
24 trator of the United States Agency for International De-
25 velopment and the Secretary of State should continue to
26 support humanitarian and development assistance for dis-

1 placed individuals and host communities in Lebanon, in-
2 cluding—

3 (1) health assistance, including logistical and
4 technical assistance to hospitals, ambulances, and
5 health clinics in affected communities, and the provi-
6 sion of basic public health commodities;

7 (2) services, such as medicines and medical sup-
8 plies and equipment;

9 (3) assistance to provide—

10 (A) protection, food, and shelter; and

11 (B) water, sanitation, and hygiene (collec-
12 tively referred to as “WASH”); and

13 (4) technical assistance to ensure health, food,
14 and commodities are appropriately selected, pro-
15 cured, targeted, monitored, and distributed.

16 (c) STRATEGY.—Not later than 90 days after the
17 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State,
18 in coordination with the Administrator of the United
19 States Agency for International Development, shall submit
20 a strategy to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the
21 Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
22 House of Representatives that describes—

23 (1) how the United States, working with rel-
24 evant foreign governments, multilateral organiza-

tions, and nongovernmental organizations, will address the humanitarian situation in Lebanon;

(2) diplomatic efforts carried out by the United States Government to encourage strategic burden sharing and the coordination of donations with international donors, including foreign governments and multilateral organizations, to advance the provision of humanitarian assistance to the people of Lebanon, especially internally displaced people; and

(3) how the United States Government is—

(A) mitigating risk of diversion or benefit to non-state armed groups in Lebanon, particularly Hezbollah; and

(B) ensuring effective delivery of assistance.

SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO THE LEBANESE ARMED FORCES AND THE INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES DIRECTORATE.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State, for each of the fiscal years 2025 through 2029, in addition to amounts already authorized to be appropriated for such purposes and in addition to any amounts au-

1 thorized or appropriated by any other Act of Con-
2 gress for such purposes—

3 (A) \$75,000,000 for Foreign Military Fi-
4 nancing;

5 (B) \$10,00,000 for International Narcotics
6 Control and Law Enforcement;

7 (C) \$4,000,000 for Nonproliferation, Anti-
8 terrorism, Demining, and Related Programs;
9 and

10 (D) \$1,000,000 International Military
11 Education and Training.

12 (2) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts appropriated
13 pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be used by the Sec-
14 retary of State to build the capacity of the Lebanese
15 Armed Forces and the Internal Security Forces Di-
16 rectorate, including by—

17 (A) countering Iranian proxy forces oper-
18 ating in Lebanon, including Hezbollah, Hamas,
19 and Palestinian Islamic Jihad;

20 (B) fully implementing all relevant United
21 Nations Security Council resolutions; and

22 (C) countering and interdicting captagon
23 production and trafficking in Lebanon.

24 (b) BRIEFING REQUIRED.—Not later than 15 days
25 before the obligation of any funds appropriated pursuant

1 to subsection (a), the Secretary of State shall brief the
2 Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the
3 Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representa-
4 tives regarding—

5 (1) the steps taken during the previous year by
6 the Lebanese Armed Forces and the Internal Secu-
7 rity Forces Directorate to counter Iranian proxy
8 forces operating in Lebanon, including Hezbollah,
9 Hamas, and Palestinian Islamic Jihad;

10 (2) the steps taken during the previous year by
11 the Lebanese Armed Forces, in cooperation with the
12 United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, to imple-
13 ment its mission under the terms of United Nations
14 Security Council Resolution 1701 (2006);

15 (3) the steps taken during the previous year by
16 Lebanese security institutions to counter the produc-
17 tion and trafficking of captagon in Lebanon;

18 (4) how the production and trafficking of
19 captagon has harmed the Lebanese economy and
20 benefitted Hezbollah and whether Hezbollah is ac-
21 tively engaged in the production and trafficking of
22 captagon;

23 (5) how United States assistance created or
24 augmented the capabilities of the Lebanese Armed
25 Forces and the Internal Security Forces Directorate

1 to undertake the steps described in paragraphs (1)
2 through (3);

3 (6) how the assistance authorized under sub-
4 section (a) will further improve the capabilities of
5 the Lebanese Armed Forces and the Internal Secu-
6 rity Forces Directorate to counter Iranian proxy
7 forces operating in Lebanon, including Hezbollah,
8 Hamas, and Palestinian Islamic Jihad; and

9 (7) how the assistance authorized under sub-
10 section (a) will further increase the capacity of the
11 Lebanese Armed Forces to partner with the United
12 Nations Interim Force in Lebanon to implement the
13 terms of United Nations Security Council Resolution
14 1701 (2006).

15 (c) TRANSFER AUTHORITY.—

16 (1) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE FUNDS.—Sub-
17 ject to paragraphs (2) and (3), during fiscal years
18 2025 and 2026, amounts appropriated to the De-
19 partment of Defense for purposes described in title
20 10, United States Code may be transferred by the
21 Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Sec-
22 retary of State, to the Foreign Military Financing
23 Program to directly benefit the Government of Leb-
24 anon, in accordance with procedures established for
25 reprogramming under section 1001 of the National

1 Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024
2 (Public Law 118–31; 137 Stat. 378 et seq.) and any
3 relevant successor provisions of law.

4 (2) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts transferred to
5 the Foreign Military Financing Program pursuant
6 to paragraph shall be prioritized for building the ca-
7 pacity of the Lebanese Armed Forces and the Inter-
8 nal Security Forces Directorate, including by fully
9 implementing all relevant United Nations Security
10 Council resolutions.

11 (3) LIMITATION.—The total amount of funds
12 transferred by the Department of Defense to the
13 Foreign Military Financing Program in any fiscal
14 year may not exceed \$400,000,000.

15 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR INCEN-**
16 **TIVE FUND FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF**
17 **LEBANESE GOVERNMENT SERVICES AND IN-**
18 **FRASTRUCTURE.**

19 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDS.—In addition to
20 amounts already authorized to be appropriated for such
21 purposes and in addition to any amounts authorized or
22 appropriated by any other Act of Congress for such pur-
23 poses, there is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
24 retary of State, for each of the fiscal years 2025 through
25 2029, \$50,000,000, which shall be expended for—

1 (1) the reconstruction of services and institu-
2 tions of the Government of Lebanon and of munic-
3 ipal governments in Lebanon; and

4 (2) the building and rebuilding of civilian infra-
5 structure in Lebanon.

6 (b) REPORT REQUIRED.—Amounts appropriated
7 pursuant to subsection (a) may not be obligated or ex-
8 pended unless the Secretary of State submits an annual
9 written report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of
10 the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
11 House of Representatives—

12 (1) certifying that—

13 (A) the expenditure of such amounts will
14 not directly benefit Hezbollah;

15 (B) any civilian infrastructure rebuilt with
16 such amounts has not and will not be used to
17 shelter weapons belonging to Hezbollah, or
18 other non-state armed groups in Lebanon, in-
19 cluding Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad;

20 (C) accounting, monitoring, evaluation and
21 oversight procedures are in place to prevent the
22 diversion of such amounts to Hezbollah, other
23 non-state armed groups in Lebanon, or affili-
24 ates of Hezbollah or any such group;

1 (D) such amounts are being used for the
2 purposes for which they were obligated; and

3 (E) the United States Government is tak-
4 ing significant steps to encourage donations for
5 similar purposes from other countries and enti-
6 ties, including Japan, the United Kingdom, the
7 European Union and its member states, and
8 the member states of the Gulf Cooperation
9 Council; and

10 (2) describing—

11 (A) the manner and nature of Hezbollah's
12 participation in the Government of Lebanon
13 and in municipal governments in Lebanon, in-
14 cluding a description of any ministries and mu-
15 nicipal governments that are controlled by
16 Hezbollah, are led by members of Hezbollah, or
17 employ significant numbers of Hezbollah mem-
18 bers;

19 (B) the steps taken during the previous
20 year to prevent United States Government as-
21 sistance, including the amounts authorized to
22 be appropriated pursuant to subsection (a),
23 from being used by ministries of the Govern-
24 ment of Lebanon or municipal governments in
25 Lebanon that are controlled by Hezbollah, are

1 led by members of Hezbollah, or employ signifi-
2 cant numbers of Hezbollah members;

3 (C) the steps that will be taken during the
4 next year to prevent United States Government
5 assistance, including the amounts authorized to
6 be appropriated pursuant to subsection (a),
7 from being used by the Government of Lebanon
8 or municipal governments in Lebanon that are
9 controlled by Hezbollah, are led by members of
10 Hezbollah, or employ significant numbers of
11 Hezbollah members;

12 (D) which ministries and municipal gov-
13 ernments are not controlled by Hezbollah, are
14 not led by members of Hezbollah, and do not
15 employ significant numbers of Hezbollah mem-
16 bers and are eligible to receive United States
17 Government assistance, including the amounts
18 authorized to be appropriated pursuant to sub-
19 section (a) and how such amounts will be used
20 to support or reconstruct the institutions of
21 such ministries and municipalities and the serv-
22 ices they provide;

23 (E) the steps that will be taken during the
24 next year to prevent civilian infrastructure from
25 being used to shelter weapons used by

1 Hezbollah, Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad or
2 any other non-stated armed group in Lebanon;

3 (F) the steps taken during the previous
4 year to prevent civilian infrastructure from
5 being used to shelter weapons used by
6 Hezbollah, Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad or
7 any other non-stated armed group in Lebanon;

8 (G) the accounting, monitoring, evaluation
9 and oversight procedures implemented during
10 the previous year to prevent the diversion of the
11 United States Government assistance, including
12 the amounts authorized to be appropriated pur-
13 suant to subsection (a), to Hezbollah or other
14 non-state armed groups in Lebanon or their af-
15 filiates and to ensure such amounts are being
16 used for the purposes for which they were obli-
17 gated;

18 (H) the accounting, monitoring, evaluation
19 and oversight procedures that will be imple-
20 mented during the next year to prevent the di-
21 version of the United States Government assist-
22 ance, including the amounts authorized to be
23 appropriated pursuant to subsection (a), to
24 Hezbollah or other non-state armed groups in
25 Lebanon or their affiliates and that such

1 amounts are being used for the purposes for
 2 which they were obligated; and

3 (I) the steps taken by the United States
 4 Government to encourage donations from other
 5 countries for similar purposes, which countries
 6 have donated for similar purposes, and the
 7 amounts of such donations.

8 (c) FORM.—The report required under subsection (b)
 9 shall be unclassified, but may include a classified annex
 10 that is submitted to Congress separately from the unclas-
 11 sified portion.

12 **SEC. 9. LOKMAN SLIM EXCELLENCE IN LEBANESE INVES-**
 13 **TIGATIVE JOURNALISM AWARD.**

14 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

15 (1) On February 3, 2021, prominent Lebanese
 16 activist and journalist Lokman Slim was found mur-
 17 dered in the Hezbollah-controlled Al Zahrani dis-
 18 trict.

19 (2) Mr. Slim was a strong critic of Hezbollah
 20 and faced harassment and threats from Hezbollah
 21 and Hezbollah-aligned groups.

22 (3) Mr. Slim devoted his life to bringing about
 23 positive change in Lebanon and bravely pushed for
 24 justice, accountability, and rule of law.

1 (4) Despite promises by former President
 2 Michel Aoun and other Lebanese Government offi-
 3 cials, Mr. Slim’s killer has not been found and a
 4 credible investigation into his murder has not been
 5 launched by Lebanese Government authorities.

6 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
 8 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
 9 mittees” means—

10 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of
 11 the Senate;

12 (B) the Committee on Appropriations of
 13 the Senate;

14 (C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
 15 the House of Representatives; and

16 (D) the Committee on Appropriations of
 17 the House of Representatives.

18 (2) AWARD.—The term “Award” means the
 19 award established pursuant to subsection (c).

20 (c) ESTABLISHMENT OF AWARD.—The Secretary of
 21 State is authorized to establish an award, which shall be
 22 known as the “Lokman Slim Excellence in Lebanese In-
 23 vestigative Journalism Award”, for extraordinary efforts
 24 in investigative journalism inside Lebanon, including in

1 the face of harassment, detention, prosecution, or obstruc-
2 tion.

3 (d) PRESENTATION OF AWARD.—To the maximum
4 extent practicable, the Secretary of State shall annually
5 present the Award to not more than 3 individuals or orga-
6 nizations that are—

7 (1) United States citizens or foreign nationals
8 engaged in investigative journalism focused on Leb-
9 anon; or

10 (2) United States or foreign private or non-
11 governmental organizations engaged in investigative
12 journalism focused on Lebanon.

13 (e) SELECTION.—The Secretary of State shall estab-
14 lish procedures for selecting recipients of the Award.

15 (f) REPORT.—The Secretary of State shall submit an
16 annual report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of
17 the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
18 House of Representatives that—

19 (1) lists the Award recipients for such year; and

20 (2) includes an explanation of each recipient's
21 selection according to the procedures authorized
22 under subsection (e).

23 (g) CEREMONY.—The Secretary of State should host
24 an annual ceremony for recipients of the Award as soon
25 as practicable after the date on which the Secretary sub-

1 mits the report required under subsection (f). The Sec-
 2 retary of State may pay the travel costs of each Award
 3 recipient and a guest of each Award recipient who attends
 4 such ceremony.

5 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
 6 are authorized to be appropriated, for each of the fiscal
 7 years 2025 through 2029, such sums as may be necessary
 8 to carry out this section.

9 **SEC. 10. COUNTERING THE PRODUCTION AND TRAF-**
 10 **FICKING OF CAPTAGON FROM AND THROUGH**
 11 **LEBANON.**

12 (a) PROGRAM TO BUILD THE CAPACITY OF THE
 13 LEBANESE ARMED FORCES AND THE INTERNAL SECU-
 14 RITY FORCES DIRECTORATE WITH RESPECT TO
 15 CAPTAGON.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 660
 17 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C.
 18 2420), the Secretary of State shall establish a pro-
 19 gram to provide assistance to strengthen the capac-
 20 ity of Lebanese security institutions to identify,
 21 track, and improve their forensics detection capabili-
 22 ties with respect to captagon.

23 (2) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—The program
 24 required under paragraph (1)—

1 (A) shall be limited to individuals who have
 2 expertise and experience in matters described in
 3 paragraph (1); and

4 (B) may be carried out, in the case of in-
 5 bound exchanges, as part of exchange programs
 6 and international visitor programs administered
 7 by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Af-
 8 fairs of the Department of State, including the
 9 International Visitor Leadership Program, in
 10 coordination with the Bureau of International
 11 Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs.

12 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
 13 authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of State,
 14 in addition to amounts already authorized or appropriated
 15 for such purposes and in addition to any amounts author-
 16 ized or appropriated by any other Act of Congress, for
 17 each of the fiscal years 2025 through 2029, \$5,000,000
 18 for International Narcotics Control and Law Enforce-
 19 ment, which shall be used to carry out subsection (a).

20 **SEC. 11. LIVELIHOOD AND SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE TO**
 21 **THE LEBANESE ARMED FORCES AND THE IN-**
 22 **TERNAL SECURITY FORCES DIRECTORATE.**

23 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

24 (1) PEACEKEEPING.—There is authorized to be
 25 appropriated to the Secretary of State, in addition

1 to amounts already authorized or appropriated for
2 such purposes and in addition to any amounts au-
3 thorized or appropriated by any other Act of Con-
4 gress, for each of the fiscal years 2025 through
5 2027, \$10,000,000 for Peacekeeping Operations,
6 which shall be used to help pay the salaries of mem-
7 bers of the Lebanese Armed Forces.

8 (2) LAW ENFORCEMENT.—There is authorized
9 to be appropriated to the Secretary of State, in addi-
10 tion to amounts already authorized or appropriated
11 for such purposes and in addition to any amounts
12 authorized or appropriated by any other Act of Con-
13 gress, for each of the fiscal years 2025 through
14 2027, \$5,000,000 for International Narcotics Con-
15 trol and Law Enforcement, which shall be used to
16 help pay the salaries of members of the Internal Se-
17 curity Forces Directorate.

18 (3) ECONOMIC SUPPORT.—There is authorized
19 to be appropriated to the Secretary of State, in addi-
20 tion to amounts already authorized or appropriated
21 for such purposes and in addition to any amounts
22 authorized or appropriated by any other Act of Con-
23 gress, for fiscal year 2025, \$2,000,000 for Economic
24 Support Funds, which shall be used to help pay un-
25 dergraduate tuition for the children of members of

1 the Lebanese Armed Forces attending campuses of
2 United States universities that are based in Leb-
3 anon.

4 (b) REPORT REQUIRED.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
6 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
7 retary of State shall submit a report to the Com-
8 mittee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the
9 Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-
10 resentatives that describes the effect of the amounts
11 appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) on the re-
12 tention and readiness of the Lebanese Armed Forces
13 and the Internal Security Forces Directorate.

14 (2) FORM.—The report required under para-
15 graph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form,
16 but may contain a classified annex.

17 **SEC. 12. EDUCATION FOR LEBANESE HOST COMMUNITIES.**

18 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDS FOR HIGHER EDU-
19 CATION IN LEBANON.—There is authorized to be appro-
20 priated, for each of the fiscal years 2025 through 2027,
21 in addition to amounts already authorized and appro-
22 priated for such purposes, in addition to amounts already
23 authorized or appropriated for such purposes and in addi-
24 tion to any amounts authorized or appropriated by any
25 other Act of Congress, \$15,000,000 in Economic Support

1 Funds, which shall be used to support universities in Leb-
2 anon that are patterned after United States universities.

3 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDS FOR LEBANESE PRI-
4 MARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATION.—There is
5 authorized to be appropriated, for each of the fiscal years
6 2025 through 2027, in addition to amounts already au-
7 thorized or appropriated for such purposes and in addition
8 to any amounts authorized or appropriated by any other
9 Act of Congress, \$20,000,000 in Economic Support
10 Funds, which shall be used to support primary and sec-
11 ondary education for Lebanese host communities in Leb-
12 anon.

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