

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4645

To amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to modify the authorities of the Assistant Secretary for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 23, 2025

Mr. DAVIDSON 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 modify the authorities of the Assistant Secretary for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs.

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 “New Authorities Re-
5 forming Counter-narcotic Operations Act of 2025” or the
6 “NARCO Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL NAR-**
2 **COTICS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AFFAIRS.**

3 Section 1(c)(3) of the State Department Basic Au-
4 thorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a(c)(3)) is amend-
5 ed—

6 (1) in subparagraph (A), by adding at the end
7 the following: “The Assistant Secretary for Inter-
8 national Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs
9 shall report to the Under Secretary for International
10 Security Affairs.”; and

11 (2) by striking subparagraphs (B) and (C) and
12 inserting the following:

13 “(B) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Assistant
14 Secretary for International Narcotics and Law
15 Enforcement Affairs shall be responsible for the
16 following:

17 “(i) Maintaining continuous observa-
18 tion and coordination of all matters per-
19 taining to international narcotics, anti-
20 crime, and law enforcement affairs in the
21 conduct of foreign policy, including rel-
22 evant programs carried out by other
23 United States Government agencies.

24 “(ii) Combating international nar-
25 cotics production and trafficking as well as
26 illicit finance and materials used by

1 transnational criminal organizations, car-
2 tels and foreign terror organizations that
3 threaten United States national security.

4 “(iii) Strengthening foreign justice
5 systems, including judicial and prosecu-
6 torial capacity, appeals systems, law en-
7 forcement agencies, prison systems, and
8 the sharing of recovered assets. The Sec-
9 retary shall allocate no more than 10 per-
10 cent of total grant funding to activities
11 under this clause.

12 “(iv) Training and equipping foreign
13 police, border control, other government of-
14 ficials, and other civilian law enforcement
15 authorities for anti-crime purposes, includ-
16 ing ensuring that no foreign security unit
17 or member of such unit receives such as-
18 sistance from the United States Govern-
19 ment without appropriate vetting.

20 “(v) Issuing rewards and bounties
21 under the Narcotics Reward Program and
22 the Transnational Organized Crime Re-
23 wards Program, including allocating up to
24 \$25,000,000 for information, capture,
25 interdiction or other activities as des-

1 ignated by the Secretary that lead to the
2 capture or interdiction of persons involved
3 in international criminal activities that the
4 Secretary designates as in the United
5 States national interest to address. The
6 Secretary shall prioritize the programs to
7 address transnational criminal organiza-
8 tions and shall prioritize countering
9 transnational criminal organizations that
10 are also designated foreign terrorist orga-
11 nizations whose operations threaten United
12 States homeland security. The Secretary
13 shall coordinate with the Federal Bureau
14 of Investigation, the Department of Jus-
15 tice, the Drug Enforcement Administra-
16 tion, U.S. Immigration and Customs En-
17 forcement, the Department of Defense and
18 the intelligence community as to which pri-
19 orities to designate for the rewards pro-
20 gram described in this clause. All such
21 agencies are authorized to submit to the
22 Assistant Secretary priority lists of organi-
23 zations and avenues of illicit finance and
24 criminal activity for priority consideration.
25 Unspent funds from amounts allocated

1 under this clause for any fiscal year shall
2 be retained and be made available for the
3 rewards programs in future fiscal years.

4 “(vi) Prioritizing administering the
5 Narcotics Rewards Program and the
6 Transnational Organized Crime Rewards
7 Program by issuing bounties and rewards
8 to capture and interdict persons and mate-
9 rials of criminal nature that threaten
10 homeland security. The Secretary shall en-
11 sure that at minimum 20 percent of the
12 annual budget authority of the Bureau is
13 utilized by the Narcotics Rewards Program
14 and the Transnational Organized Crime
15 Rewards Program for respective bounties
16 and rewards.

17 “(vii) Coordinating with the intel-
18 ligence community, the Department of
19 Treasury, the Department of Justice, the
20 Department of Defense, and the Depart-
21 ment of Homeland Security to ensure a
22 full spectrum response to international
23 criminal issues that threaten the lives and
24 well being of United States citizens.

“(viii) Combating, in conjunction with other relevant bureaus of the Department of State and other United States Government agencies, all forms of transnational organized crime, including human trafficking, illegal immigration, illicit trafficking in arms, wildlife, and cultural property, migrant smuggling, corruption, money laundering, the illicit smuggling of bulk cash, the licit use of financial systems for malign purposes, and other new and emerging forms of crime including the actions of transnational criminal organizations and designated foreign terrorist organizations. The Secretary shall prioritize counteraction of transnational criminal organizations whose actions imperil the lives and securities of United States citizens particularly through narcotics trafficking. The Secretary shall also prioritize the counteraction of designated foreign terrorist organizations including narcotics trafficking, human trafficking, illegal immigration, weapons smuggling and other avenues of illicit finance that further ter-

1 rorist activities that threaten United
2 States homeland security.

3 “(ix) Carrying out timely and sub-
4 stantive consultation with chiefs of mission
5 and, as appropriate, the heads of other
6 United States Government agencies to en-
7 sure effective coordination of all inter-
8 national narcotics and law enforcement
9 programs carried out overseas by the De-
10 partment and such other agencies.

11 “(x) Coordinating with the Office of
12 National Drug Control Policy to ensure
13 lessons learned from other United States
14 Government agencies are available to the
15 Bureau.

16 “(xi) Developing standard require-
17 ments for monitoring and evaluation of
18 Bureau programs, including metrics for
19 success that do not rely solely on the
20 amounts of illegal drugs that are produced
21 or seized.

22 “(xii) Developing in partnership with
23 grantees, partners, and contractors a
24 searchable data base comprehensively de-
25 tailing bureau programming, line-item

1 spending, including grant awards and re-
2 wards and accounting of success metrics
3 and evaluation of end point goals of pro-
4 grammatic spending. In coordination with
5 the Under Secretary for International Se-
6 curity Affairs, annually certifying in writ-
7 ing to the Committee on Foreign Relations
8 of the Senate and the Committee on For-
9 eign Affairs of the House of Representa-
10 tives that United States enforcement per-
11 sonnel posted abroad whose activities are
12 funded to any extent by the Bureau are
13 complying with section 207 of the Foreign
14 Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3927).

15 “(xiii) Performing such other duties
16 as the Under Secretary for International
17 Security Affairs may from time to time
18 designate.

19 “(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing
20 in this paragraph may be construed to limit or
21 impair the authority or responsibility of any
22 other Federal agency with respect to law en-
23 forcement, domestic security operations, or in-

1 telligence activities as defined in Executive
2 Order 12333.”.

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