

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4988

To authorize the President of the United States to issue letters of marque and reprisal with respect to acts of aggression against the United States a member of a criminal enterprise or any conspirator associated with an enterprise involved in cybercrimes, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 15, 2025

Mr. SCHWEIKERT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the President of the United States to issue letters of marque and reprisal with respect to acts of aggression against the United States a member of a criminal enterprise or any conspirator associated with an enterprise involved in cybercrimes, 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 “‘Scam Farms Marque
5 and Reprisal Authorization Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution
4 grants the Congress the power to grant letters of
5 marque and reprisal to punish, deter, and prevent
6 the acts of aggression and depredations and other
7 acts of war committed by scam centers.

8 (2) Criminal enterprises that employ
9 cybercrimes and coerced labor present an unusual
10 and extraordinary threat to the economic and na-
11 tional security of the United States.

12 **SEC. 3. ISSUANCE OF LETTERS OF MARQUE AND REPRISAL.**

13 (a) **AUTHORITY OF PRESIDENT.**—The President of
14 the United States is authorized and requested to commis-
15 sion, under officially issued letters of marque and reprisal,
16 so many of privately armed and equipped persons and en-
17 tities as, in the judgment of the President, the service may
18 require, with suitable instructions to the leaders thereof,
19 to employ all means reasonably necessary to seize outside
20 the geographic boundaries of the United States and its
21 territories the person and property of any individual or
22 foreign government, as applicable, who the President de-
23 termines is a member of a criminal enterprise or any con-
24 spirator associated with an enterprise involved in
25 cybercrime who is responsible for an act of aggression
26 against the United States.

1 (b) SECURITY BONDS.—No letter of marque and re-
2 prisal shall be issued by the President without requiring
3 the posting of a security bond in such amount as the
4 President shall determine is sufficient to ensure that the
5 letter be executed according to the terms and conditions
6 thereof.

7 (c) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this sec-
8 tion—

9 (1) the term “cybercrime” includes—

10 (A) an offense under section 1030 of title
11 18, United States Code;

12 (B) accessing a computer without author-
13 ization to obtain national security information,
14 including sharing or retaining such information;

15 (C) accessing a computer without author-
16 ization to obtain personally identifiable informa-
17 tion;

18 (D) accessing a Government computer
19 without authorization;

20 (E) accessing a computer without author-
21 ization to engage in fraud;

22 (F) causing damage to a computer by
23 transmitting a program, information, code, or
24 command;

1 (G) trafficking in passwords or other
2 means of accessing a computer without author-
3 ization;

4 (H) a pig butchering scam;

5 (I) a ransomware attack;

6 (J) cryptocurrency theft; or

7 (K) identity theft; and

8 (2) the term “criminal enterprise” includes a
9 foreign government.

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