

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 435

To improve the missile defense capabilities of the United States, and for
other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 5, 2025

Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. CRAMER) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To improve the missile defense capabilities of the United
States, 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 “Increasing Response
5 Options and Deterrence of Missile Engagements Act of
6 2025” or the “IRONDOME Act of 2025”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF THE SENATE.**

8 (a) FINDINGS.—

1 (1) MISSILE DEFENSE REVIEW.—Congress
2 finds that the 2022 Missile Defense Review found
3 the following:

4 (A) Since the release of the 2019 Missile
5 Defense Review, missile-related threats have
6 rapidly expanded in quantity, diversity, and so-
7 phistication.

8 (B) United States national security inter-
9 ests are increasingly at risk from wide-ranging
10 missile arsenals that include offensive ballistic,
11 cruise, and hypersonic weapons.

12 (C) In support of the homeland missile de-
13 fense mission, continued modernization and ex-
14 pansion of the Ground-based Midcourse De-
15 fense (GMD) system will remain an essential
16 element of our comprehensive missile defeat ap-
17 proach. In addition, the United States will also
18 continue to improve defensive capabilities to ad-
19 dress the threat of evolving cruise missile
20 strikes by any adversary against the homeland.

21 (D) The continued evolution and progress
22 of missiles as a principal means by which adver-
23 saries seek to project conventional or nuclear
24 military power makes missile defense a core de-

1 terrence-by-denial component of an integrated
2 deterrence strategy.

3 (E) Missile defense capabilities add resil-
4 ience and undermine adversary confidence in
5 missile use by introducing doubt and uncer-
6 tainty into strike planning and execution, re-
7 ducing the incentive to conduct small-scale coer-
8 cive attacks, decreasing the probability of at-
9 tack success, and raising the threshold of con-
10 flict.

11 (2) CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSION ON THE
12 STRATEGIC POSTURE OF THE UNITED STATES.—
13 Congress finds that, in its October 2023 report, the
14 Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture
15 of the United States recommended the following:

16 (A) The United States should develop and
17 field homeland integrated air and missile de-
18 fense (IAMD) that can deter and defeat coer-
19 cive attacks by Russia and China, and deter-
20 mine the capabilities needed to stay ahead of
21 the North Korean threat.

22 (B) The Secretary of Defense should direct
23 research, development, test and evaluation into
24 advanced integrated air and missile defense ca-
25 pabilities leveraging all domains, including land,

1 sea, air, and space. These activities should
2 focus on sensor architectures, integrated com-
3 mand and control, interceptors, cruise and
4 hypersonic missile defenses, and area or point
5 defenses. The Department of Defense should
6 urgently pursue deployment of any capabilities
7 that prove feasible.

8 (C) The Secretary and the military depart-
9 ments should transfer operations and
10 sustainment responsibility for missile defense to
11 the appropriate military departments by Octo-
12 ber 1, 2024, to allow the Missile Defense Agen-
13 cy (MDA) to focus on research, development,
14 prototyping, and testing.

15 (3) COMMISSION ON THE NATIONAL DEFENSE
16 STRATEGY.—Congress finds the following:

17 (A) In its July 2024 report, the Commis-
18 sion on the National Defense Strategy found
19 the following:

20 (i) There is an increasing threat from
21 expanding ability of China, Russia, and
22 North Korea to deliver nuclear weapons
23 against the United States, including the
24 territories of the United States.

1 (ii) The military planners of the De-
2 partment of Defense and United States
3 Northern Command need to prepare for a
4 worst-case scenario in which nuclear and
5 other strikes are launched against the
6 United States, which could be done in
7 large numbers with specialized delivery
8 systems.

9 (B) In the report described in subpara-
10 graph (A), the Commission shared the same
11 threat assessment about missile attacks as the
12 Commission on the Strategic Posture of the
13 United States and agreed with the rec-
14 ommendation that the United States should en-
15 hance missile defense for the homeland.

16 (4) POLICY.—Congress finds that it is the pol-
17 icy of the Federal Government that—

18 (A) the Federal Government will provide
19 for the common defense of the citizens of the
20 United States and the United States by deploy-
21 ing and maintaining a next-generation missile
22 defense shield;

23 (B) the Federal Government will deter and
24 defend the citizens and critical infrastructure of

1 the United States against any foreign attack on
2 the United States homeland; and

3 (C) the Federal Government will guarantee
4 the secure second-strike capability of the Fed-
5 eral Government.

6 (b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the
7 Senate that—

8 (1) the threat of attack by ballistic, cruise, and
9 hypersonic missiles remains a catastrophic threat
10 facing the United States and defense against it is a
11 form of both national security and border security;

12 (2) China is rapidly expanding and modernizing
13 its conventional forces to include ballistic missile sys-
14 tems posing an increasing threat to citizens, forces,
15 and allies of the United States;

16 (3) over the past 40 years, rather than less-
17 ening, the threat from next-generation strategic
18 weapons, including hypersonic, has become more
19 complex with the development of next-generation de-
20 livery systems by adversaries of the United States;

21 (4) notwithstanding this increasing threat,
22 homeland missile defense policy of the United States
23 has been severely limited to staying ahead of rogue
24 nation threats and accidental or unauthorized mis-
25 sile launches;

1 (5) by empowering the United States with a
2 second-strike capability, the Iron Dome will deter
3 adversaries from attacks on the homeland;

4 (6) the midcourse defense system is the primary
5 system capable of defending the United States
6 homeland from long-range ballistic missile threats
7 and is critical to our national security;

8 (7) the Next Generation Interceptor is a top
9 priority for the Missile Defense Agency and a critical
10 element to increasing system reliability to build
11 warfighter competence; and

12 (8) the United States must gain and maintain
13 total domain awareness to provide early warning and
14 defeat of missile threats from both the northern and
15 southern hemispheres and from outer space.

16 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

17 In this Act:

18 (1) CONGRESSIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEES.—

19 The term “congressional defense committees” has
20 the meaning given such term in section 101(a) of
21 title 10, United States Code.

22 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
23 the Secretary of Defense.

1 **SEC. 4. IMPROVING UNITED STATES MISSILE DEFENSE CA-**
2 **PABILITIES.**

3 (a) PLAN FOR TRANSFER OF OPERATIONS AND
4 SUSTAINMENT OF MISSILE DEFENSE TO THE MILITARY
5 DEPARTMENTS.—

6 (1) PLAN REQUIRED.—Not later than 120 days
7 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
8 retary shall submit to Congress a multi-year phased
9 plan to transfer operations and sustainment respon-
10 sibility for missile defense from the Missile Defense
11 Agency to the appropriate military departments to
12 allow the Missile Defense Agency to focus on re-
13 search, development, and prototyping and testing.

14 (2) EXECUTION OF PLAN.—The Secretary shall
15 execute the plan submitted pursuant to paragraph
16 (1) pursuant to a specific authorization of such plan
17 enacted after the date of the enactment of this Act.

18 (b) MIDDLE-TIER ACQUISITION PROGRAM FOR
19 DRONE-BASED MISSILE THREAT AUDIO DETECTION SYS-
20 TEM.—The Commander of United States Northern Com-
21 mand shall use a process for conducting a middle tier ac-
22 quisition described in section 3602 of title 10, United
23 States Code, as added by section 804 of the Servicemem-
24 ber Quality of Life Improvement and National Defense
25 Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025 (Public Law 118–
26 159), for rapid fielding and prototyping of a drone-based

1 network for both forward deployed armed forces and
2 homeland defense capable of detecting through audio sens-
3 ing technology the approach of advanced missiles, includ-
4 ing advanced cruise missiles and hypersonic missiles.

5 (c) MIDDLE-TIER ACQUISITION PROGRAM FOR PRO-
6 LIFERATED WARFIGHTER SPACE ARCHITECTURE OF
7 SPACE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY.—The Director of the
8 Space Development Agency shall use a process for con-
9 ducting a middle tier acquisition described in section 3602
10 of title 10, United States Code, as added by section 804
11 of the Servicemember Quality of Life Improvement and
12 National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2025
13 (Public Law 118–159), for rapid fielding of satellites and
14 associated systems for tranches 3, 4, and 5 of the pro-
15 liferated warfighter space architecture of the Agency.

16 (d) REQUIREMENT FOR NEXT GENERATION INTER-
17 CEPTOR FIELDING AND SILO CONSTRUCTION.—The Sec-
18 retary shall take such actions as may be necessary to ex-
19 pand Next Generation Interceptor production and silo con-
20 struction at Fort Greely, Alaska, to field a minimum of
21 80 interceptors at Fort Greely for defense of the United
22 States to be completed not later than January 1, 2038.

23 (e) REQUIREMENT FOR COMBATANT COMMANDS TO
24 ACCOUNT FOR MISSILE DEFENSE INTERCEPTORS AND
25 SENSOR REQUIREMENTS IN THEIR ANNUAL RE-

1 QUESTS.—For each fiscal year beginning after the date
2 of the enactment of this Act, each commander of a com-
3 batant command shall include the missile defense inter-
4 ceptor requirements, terrestrial-based sensor require-
5 ments, and space-based sensor requirements of the com-
6 batant command of the commander in the supporting in-
7 formation for the Department of Defense submitted along
8 with the budget of the President to Congress for such fis-
9 cal year pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United
10 States Code.

11 (f) ACCELERATING DEVELOPMENT OF GLIDE PHASE
12 INTERCEPTOR.—

13 (1) USE OF AUTHORITIES TO ACCELERATE DE-
14 VELOPMENT.—The Secretary shall use all authori-
15 ties available to the Secretary to accelerate develop-
16 ment of the Glide Phase Interceptor to defend
17 against hypersonic threats to the United States
18 homeland.

19 (2) REPORT ON POTENTIAL FOR PARALLEL DE-
20 VELOPMENT.—Not later than one year after the
21 date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of
22 the Missile Defense Agency shall submit to the Sec-
23 retary a report on the potential for parallel develop-
24 ment of capabilities, revised program schedule, and

1 the risk associated with pursuing only one alter-
2 native for the Glide Phase Interceptor.

3 (g) ACCELERATING PRODUCTION AND FIELDING OF
4 TERMINAL HIGH ALTITUDE AREA DEFENSE SYSTEM.—
5 The Secretary shall use all authorities available to the Sec-
6 retary to accelerate the production and fielding of the Ter-
7 minal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system (in-
8 cluding AN/TPY-2 radars) for forward deployment and
9 homeland defense as the Secretary and President consider
10 appropriate.

11 (h) ACCELERATING DEVELOPMENT OF AUTONOMOUS
12 AGENTS TO DEFEND AGAINST CRUISE MISSILES AND
13 DRONES.—The Secretary shall use all authorities avail-
14 able to the Secretary to accelerate development of autono-
15 mous agents to cost-effectively defend the United States
16 homeland and forward-deployed armed forces against
17 raids of both large cruise missiles and drones.

18 (i) ACCELERATING DEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOY-
19 MENT OF SPACE-BASED INTERCEPTORS.—The Secretary
20 shall use all authorities available to the Secretary to accel-
21 erate development and deployment of proliferated space-
22 based interceptors capable of boost-phase intercept.

23 (j) REPORT TO REDUCE COST SAVINGS PER ROUND
24 FOR SPACE-BASED INTERCEPTORS.—Not later than 180
25 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-

1 retary of Defense shall submit a feasibility study to the
2 congressional defense committees outlining multiple meth-
3 ods for reducing the cost per round of various space-based
4 interceptors including kinetic and non-kinetic capabilities.

5 (k) ACCELERATING MODERNIZATION OF CERTAIN
6 TERRESTRIAL DOMAIN CAPABILITIES.—The Secretary
7 shall use all authorities available to the Secretary to accel-
8 erate modernization of terrestrial-based radar capabilities,
9 including those located at or known as Cobra Dane, Thule
10 Ballistic Missile Early Warning System (BMEWS), Up-
11 graded Early Warning Radar (UEWR) in Greenland and
12 Cape Cod, Homeland Defense Radar in Hawaii, and the
13 Alaska Radar System.

14 (l) MODERNIZATION OF PERIMETER ACQUISITION
15 RADAR ATTACK CHARACTERIZATION SYSTEM.—The Sec-
16 retary shall use all authorities available to the Secretary
17 to accelerate the modernization and digitization of the Pe-
18 rimeter Acquisition Radar Attack Characterization Sys-
19 tem (PARCS) to improve detection of intercontinental and
20 sea-launched missile threats, as well as improve space do-
21 main awareness capabilities.

22 (m) SITE SELECTION AND PROGRAM EXECUTION
23 PLAN FOR SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE-FACING EARLY
24 WARNING RADAR SYSTEM.—Not later than 180 days
25 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary

1 shall submit to Congress a report detailing a site selection
2 and proposed program execution plan for a southern hemi-
3 sphere-facing early warning radar system capable of de-
4 tecting threats from next generation complex missile at-
5 tacks.

6 (n) SITE SELECTION AND PROGRAM EXECUTION
7 PLAN FOR CONSTRUCTION OF EAST COAST-BASED AEGIS
8 ASHORE SYSTEM.—Not later than 180 days after the date
9 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit
10 to Congress a report detailing a site selection and pro-
11 posed program execution plan for an east coast-based
12 Aegis Ashore missile defense system.

13 (o) SITE SELECTION AND PROGRAM EXECUTION
14 PLAN FOR CONSTRUCTION OF ALASKA-BASED AEGIS
15 ASHORE SYSTEM.—Not later than 180 days after the date
16 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit
17 to Congress a report detailing a site selection and pro-
18 posed program execution plan for an Alaska-based Aegis
19 Ashore missile defense system.

20 (p) COMPLETION AND CERTIFICATION OF AEGIS
21 ASHORE SYSTEM IN HAWAII.—The Secretary shall use all
22 authorities available to the Secretary to accelerate comple-
23 tion and certification of an Aegis Ashore system based in
24 Hawaii.

1 (q) ACCELERATION OF MUNITIONS PRODUCTION FOR
2 MISSILE DEFENSE.—The Secretary shall use all authori-
3 ties available to the Secretary to accelerate production of
4 critical munitions used for missile interception, including
5 Standard Missile 3 Blocks IB and IIA and PAC-2 and
6 PAC-3 munitions.

7 (r) EXPEDITED MILITARY CONSTRUCTION AUTHOR-
8 ITY.—

9 (1) WAIVER OF REGULATIONS.—The Secretary
10 may waive any and all regulations, including envi-
11 ronmental regulations, that the Secretary determines
12 would slow down, impede, block, or otherwise hinder
13 the construction, upgrade, or modernization of infra-
14 structure supporting a Joint Urgent Operational
15 Need (JUON) associated with homeland or forward
16 deployed missile defense.

17 (2) CONGRESSIONAL NOTICE.—Whenever the
18 Secretary uses the authority provided by paragraph
19 (1), the Secretary shall, not later than 45 days after
20 using the authority, submit to the congressional de-
21 fense committees notice of such use.

22 (s) ACCELERATION OF INTEGRATED AIR AND MIS-
23 SILE DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY EXCHANGES.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, in col-
25 laboration with the Secretary of State, look for and

1 exploit opportunities to accelerate technology ex-
 2 changes and transfers of integrated missile defense
 3 technology, including over the horizon radar with
 4 trusted allies under current defense agreements and
 5 arrangements.

6 (2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this
 7 subsection shall be construed to require the Sec-
 8 retary to exchange technology with a foreign country
 9 if the President or the Secretary determines that
 10 doing so would present a grave national security
 11 threat to the United States.

12 (t) DEVELOPMENT AND SECURING OF SUPPLY
 13 CHAINS CRITICAL TO MISSILE DEFENSE.—The Secretary
 14 shall, in collaboration with the Secretary of State, the Sec-
 15 retary of Commerce, and the Secretary of the Interior,
 16 identify critical shortages and vulnerabilities in supply
 17 chains critical to missile defense component production
 18 and shall use all authorities available to the Secretaries
 19 to develop and secure such supply chains.

20 (u) REQUIREMENT FOR PROCUREMENT AND FIELD-
 21 ING OF DIRIGIBLES TO SUPPORT MISSILE DEFENSE.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Army
 23 shall procure and field dirigibles, including airships
 24 and aerostats, in support of the missile defense of

1 the United States homeland from ballistic,
 2 hypersonic, and cruise missiles, and drones.

3 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—The requirements of
 4 paragraph (1) cover—

5 (A) high altitude air defense systems to de-
 6 tect, characterize, track, and engage current
 7 and emerging advanced missile threats; and

8 (B) both short-term and long-term solu-
 9 tions that leverage the innovative dirigible and
 10 associated sensor development that the Armed
 11 Forces, partners of the United States, such as
 12 Israel, and United States industry have under-
 13 taken during the 30-year period ending on the
 14 date of the enactment of this Act.

15 (3) CONSIDERATION.—In carrying out para-
 16 graph (1), the Secretary of the Army shall consider
 17 the use of dirigibles in supporting resilient military
 18 and emergency communication networks in a crisis.

19 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

20 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
 21 this Act \$19,548,100,000 for fiscal year 2026, of which—

22 (1) \$500,000,000 shall be available for require-
 23 ments of this Act relating to SM–3 Block 1B;

24 (2) \$500,000,000 shall be available for require-
 25 ments of this Act relating to SM–3 Block IIA;

1 (3) \$1,400,000,000 shall be available for re-
2 quirements of this Act relating to Terminal High Al-
3 titude Area Defense (THAAD) Systems;

4 (4) \$1,500,000,000 shall be available for re-
5 quirements of this Act relating to PAC-2 and PAC-
6 3 Munitions and MM-104 Patriot batteries;

7 (5) \$1,000,000,000 shall be available for re-
8 quirements of this Act relating to east coast and
9 Alaska-based Aegis Ashore station construction;

10 (6) \$12,000,000,000 shall be available for ex-
11 pansion of missile interceptor fields available at Fort
12 Greely, Alaska, to 80 units with the Next Generation
13 Interceptor;

14 (7) \$250,000,000 shall be available for require-
15 ments of this Act relating to completion and certifi-
16 cation of Hawaii Aegis Ashore system;

17 (8) \$60,000,000 shall be available for require-
18 ments of this Act relating to Space Development
19 Agency satellite sensors;

20 (9) \$750,000,000 shall be available for require-
21 ments of this Act relating to modernization of ter-
22 restrial-based domain awareness radars;

23 (10) \$500,000,000 shall be available for re-
24 quirements of this Act relating to research and de-

1 velopment relating to directed energy or missile
2 interception across the military departments;

3 (11) \$900,000,000 shall be available for re-
4 quirements of this Act relating to research and de-
5 velopment of space based missile defense;

6 (12) \$63,100,000 shall be available for require-
7 ments of this Act relating to Missile Defense Com-
8 plex (MDC) and Fire Team Readiness Facility
9 (FTRF);

10 (13) \$100,000,000 shall be available for re-
11 quirements of this Act relating to procurement and
12 fielding of dirigibles; and

13 (14) \$25,000,000 shall be available for Missile
14 Defense Agency military construction to continue
15 planning and design activities for an east coast mis-
16 sile defense interceptor site.

○