

Calendar No. 53

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION**S. 842**

To counter efforts by Hezbollah to conduct terrorist activities in Latin America, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 4, 2025

Mr. CURTIS (for himself and Ms. ROSEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

APRIL 28, 2025

Reported by Mr. RISCH, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italie*]

A BILL

To counter efforts by Hezbollah to conduct terrorist activities in Latin America, 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 “No Hezbollah In Our
5 Hemisphere Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Iran and Hezbollah, an Iranian proxy, have
2 been allowed to build their Latin American regional
3 networks with impunity.

4 (2) Hezbollah is not considered a terrorist organiza-
5 tion in most countries south of the Rio Grande
6 River.

7 (3) In Latin America, the only countries that
8 have designated Hezbollah as a terrorist organiza-
9 tion are Argentina, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras,
10 and Paraguay.

11 (4) The ability of local authorities to monitor or
12 prosecute Hezbollah and its local operatives is lim-
13 ited without such a designation.

14 (5) Hezbollah has support from local authori-
15 tarian regimes aligned with the Islamic Republic of
16 Iran, such as the Nicolás Maduro regime in Ven-
17 ezuela, which has essentially become Iran's forward
18 operating base in Latin America.

19 (6) Hezbollah's infrastructure in Peru, Colom-
20 bia, Chile, and the Tri-Border Area of Argentina,
21 Brazil, and Paraguay continues to grow.

22 (7) In recent years, Hezbollah's focus in Latin
23 America has been on infiltrating criminal networks,
24 money laundering, and sophisticated smuggling op-
25 erations.

1 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

2 It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of State
3 should pursue aggressive efforts against Iranian proxy
4 networks in the Western Hemisphere, including by—

5 (1) demanding that governments put an end to
6 the impunity enjoyed by designated individuals and
7 entities or face the consequences described in this
8 Act for their inaction;

9 (2) working with allies, potentially through
10 international forums, such as the Financial Action
11 Task Force, to greylist government entities that co-
12 operate with Hezbollah;

13 (3) engaging governments in Latin America to
14 ensure they have adequate legislative tools to inves-
15 tigate terrorist activities and combat the financing of
16 terrorism; and

17 (4) persuading allies in the Latin America to
18 designate Hezbollah as a terrorist organization;
19 using Argentina's model for designation as a blue-
20 print.

21 **SEC. 4. DEFINED TERM.**

22 In this Act, the term “appropriate congressional com-
23 mittees” means—

24 (1) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Sen-
25 ate;

1 (2) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and
2 Urban Affairs of the Senate;

3 (3) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the
4 Senate;

5 (4) the Committee on the Judiciary of the
6 House of Representatives;

7 (5) the Committee on Financial Services of the
8 House of Representatives; and

9 (6) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
10 House of Representatives.

11 **SEC. 5. DETERMINATION WITH RESPECT TO TERRORIST**
12 **SANCTUARIES.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
14 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State,
15 in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence,
16 the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Homeland
17 Security, the Attorney General, and the heads of other rel-
18 evant Federal agencies, shall—

19 (1) conduct an assessment to determine wheth-
20 er any country, region, or jurisdiction in Latin
21 America meets the definition of “terrorist sanc-
22 tuary” under section 140(d)(4) of the Foreign Rela-
23 tions Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1988 and
24 1989 (22 U.S.C. 2656f(d)(4)); and

1 (2) submit the results of such assessment to the
2 appropriate congressional committees.

3 (b) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In making a determination
4 pursuant to subsection (a), the Secretary of State shall
5 consider—

6 (1) the extent to which Hezbollah or any other
7 foreign terrorist organization (as designated pursu-
8 ant to section 219(a) of the Immigration and Na-
9 tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189(a))) operates freely;
10 raises or transfers funds, recruits, or obtains safe
11 haven within a given country, region, or jurisdiction;

12 (2) whether the host government has knowingly
13 tolerated, or has failed to take action to address, ter-
14 rorist activities after learning of their existence; and

15 (3) any other factors relevant to the definition
16 of “terrorist sanctuary” under section 140(d)(4) of
17 the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal
18 Years 1988 and 1989 (22 U.S.C. 2656f(d)(4)).

19 **SEC. 6. REVOCATION OF VISAS.**

20 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The President may impose the
21 sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to any
22 foreign individual the President determines is a govern-
23 ment official of any foreign state, subdivision, or munici-
24 pality designated as a terrorist sanctuary under section
25 5 unless such official has taken significant, verifiable steps

1 to stop such activity or the relevant jurisdiction no longer
 2 meets the definition of terrorist sanctuary under section
 3 140(d)(4) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fis-
 4 cal Years 1988 and 1989 (22 U.S.C. 2656f(d)(4)).

5 (b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—

6 (1) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS AND ADMISSIONS
 7 TO THE UNITED STATES.—A foreign individual de-
 8 scribed in subsection (a) shall be—

9 (A) inadmissible to the United States;

10 (B) ineligible to receive a visa or other doc-
 11 umentation to enter the United States; and

12 (C) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or
 13 paroled into the United States or to receive any
 14 other benefit under the Immigration and Na-
 15 tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

16 (2) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—The issuing consular
 18 officer or the Secretary of State (or a designee
 19 of the Secretary), in accordance with section
 20 221(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act
 21 (8 U.S.C. 1201(i)), shall revoke any visa or
 22 other entry documentation issued to a foreign
 23 individual described in subsection (a) regardless
 24 of when the visa or other entry documentation
 25 was issued.

1 (B) EFFECT OF REVOCATION.—A revoca-
 2 tion under subparagraph (A) shall—

3 (i) take effect immediately; and

4 (ii) automatically cancel any other
 5 valid visa or entry documentation that is in
 6 the foreign individual's possession.

7 (C) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 180
 8 days after the date of the enactment of this
 9 Act, the Secretary of State shall prescribe such
 10 regulations as may be necessary to carry out
 11 this subsection.

12 (c) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH LAW ENFORCE-
 13 MENT OBJECTIVES AND AGREEMENT REGARDING THE
 14 HEADQUARTERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS.—Sanctions
 15 under subsection (b) shall not apply to a foreign person
 16 if admitting the person into the United States—

17 (1) would further important law enforcement
 18 objectives; or

19 (2) is necessary to permit the United States to
 20 comply with the Agreement regarding the Head-
 21 quarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Sue-
 22 cess June 26, 1947, and entered into force Novem-
 23 ber 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the
 24 United States, or other applicable international obli-
 25 gations of the United States.

1 (d) ~~WAIVER.—~~

2 (1) ~~IN GENERAL.—~~The President may waive
3 the application of sanctions under subsection (b)
4 with respect to—

5 (A) an individual, on a case-by-case basis
6 for periods not to exceed 180 days, if the Presi-
7 dent determines that such individual's entry or
8 continued presence in the United States is vital
9 to the national security interests of the United
10 States; and

11 (B) a jurisdiction, including a foreign
12 country, or any subdivision of such country,
13 that is designated as a terrorist sanctuary pur-
14 suant to section 5, for periods not to exceed 1
15 year, if the President determines that waiving
16 the application of sanctions with respect to offi-
17 cials or other residents of such jurisdiction is in
18 the national interest of the United States.

19 (2) ~~REPORT.—~~Not later than 15 days before
20 granting or renewing a waiver under paragraph (1),
21 the President shall submit a report to the appro-
22 priate congressional committees that includes—

23 (A) the name of the individual or the spe-
24 cific jurisdiction subject to the waiver;

1 (B) a detailed justification explaining how
2 the waiver serves—

3 (i) the national security interests of
4 the United States (for individuals); or

5 (ii) the national interest of the United
6 States (for jurisdictions); and

7 (C) with respect to renewals—

8 (i) an assessment of the individual's
9 or jurisdiction's activities during the most
10 recent waiver period; and

11 (ii) any conditions imposed to ensure
12 compliance with United States interests.

13 (e) TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS.—The President
14 may terminate the application of sanctions under this sec-
15 tion with respect to a foreign individual if the President
16 determines and reports to the appropriate congressional
17 committees not later than 15 days before the termination
18 of such sanctions that—

19 (1) the foreign individual is no longer engaged
20 in the activity that was the basis for such sanctions
21 or has taken significant verifiable steps toward stop-
22 ping such activity;

23 (2) the President has received reliable assur-
24 ances that such individual will not knowingly engage

1 in any activity subject to sanctions under this sec-
 2 tion in the future; or

3 ~~(3) the termination of such sanctions is in the~~
 4 ~~national security interests of the United States.~~

5 ~~(f) RULEMAKING.—The President shall issue such~~
 6 ~~regulations, licenses, and orders as may be necessary to~~
 7 ~~carry out this section.~~

8 **SEC. 7. SUNSET.**

9 Any sanctions imposed pursuant to this Act shall ter-
 10minate 5 years after the date of the enactment of this
 11 Act.

12 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

13 *This Act may be cited as the “No Hezbollah In Our*
 14 *Hemisphere Act”.*

15 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

16 *Congress finds the following:*

17 *(1) Iran and Hezbollah, an Iranian proxy, have*
 18 *been allowed to build their Latin American regional*
 19 *networks with impunity.*

20 *(2) Hezbollah is not considered a terrorist orga-*
 21 *nization in most countries south of the Rio Grande*
 22 *River.*

23 *(3) In Latin America, the only countries that*
 24 *have designated Hezbollah as a terrorist organization*

1 are Argentina, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, and
2 Paraguay.

3 (4) *The ability of local authorities to monitor or*
4 *prosecute Hezbollah and its local operatives is limited*
5 *without such a designation.*

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7 *tarian regimes aligned with the Islamic Republic of*
8 *Iran, such as the Nicolás Maduro regime in Ven-*
9 *ezuela, which has essentially become Iran's forward*
10 *operating base in Latin America.*

11 (6) *Hezbollah's infrastructure in Peru, Colombia,*
12 *Chile, and the Tri-Border Area of Argentina, Brazil,*
13 *and Paraguay continues to grow.*

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15 *America has been on infiltrating criminal networks,*
16 *money laundering, and sophisticated smuggling oper-*
17 *ations.*

18 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

19 *It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of State*
20 *should pursue aggressive efforts against Iranian proxy net-*
21 *works in the Western Hemisphere, including by—*

22 (1) *demanding that governments put an end to*
23 *the impunity enjoyed by designated individuals and*
24 *entities or face the consequences described in this Act*
25 *for their inaction;*

1 (2) *working with allies, potentially through*
 2 *international forums, such as the Financial Action*
 3 *Task Force, to greylist government entities that co-*
 4 *operate with Hezbollah;*

5 (3) *engaging governments in Latin America to*
 6 *ensure they have adequate legislative tools to inves-*
 7 *tigate terrorist activities and combat the financing of*
 8 *terrorism; and*

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 10 *designate Hezbollah as a terrorist organization, using*
 11 *Argentina’s model for designation as a blueprint.*

12 **SEC. 4. DEFINED TERM.**

13 *In this Act, the term “appropriate congressional com-*
 14 *mittees” means—*

15 (1) *the Committee on the Judiciary of the Sen-*
 16 *ate;*

17 (2) *the Committee on Banking, Housing, and*
 18 *Urban Affairs of the Senate;*

19 (3) *the Committee on Foreign Relations of the*
 20 *Senate;*

21 (4) *the Committee on the Judiciary of the House*
 22 *of Representatives;*

23 (5) *the Committee on Financial Services of the*
 24 *House of Representatives; and*

1 (6) *the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the*
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 4 **SANCTUARIES.**

5 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 180 days after the
 6 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State,
 7 in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence,
 8 the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Homeland
 9 Security, the Attorney General, and the heads of other rel-
 10 evant Federal agencies, shall—

11 (1) *conduct an assessment to determine whether*
 12 *any country, region, or jurisdiction in Latin America*
 13 *meets the definition of “terrorist sanctuary” under*
 14 *section 140(d)(4) of the Foreign Relations Authoriza-*
 15 *tion Act, Fiscal Years 1988 and 1989 (22 U.S.C.*
 16 *2656f(d)(4)); and*

17 (2) *submit the results of such assessment to the*
 18 *appropriate congressional committees.*

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 20 pursuant to subsection (a), the Secretary of State shall con-
 21 sider—

22 (1) *the extent to which Hezbollah or any other*
 23 *foreign terrorist organization (as designated pursuant*
 24 *to section 219(a) of the Immigration and Nationality*
 25 *Act (8 U.S.C. 1189(a))) operates freely, raises or*

1 *transfers funds, recruits, or obtains safe haven within*
 2 *a given country, region, or jurisdiction;*

3 *(2) whether the host government has knowingly*
 4 *tolerated, or has failed to take action to address, ter-*
 5 *rorist activities after learning of their existence; and*

6 *(3) any other factors relevant to the definition of*
 7 *“terrorist sanctuary” under section 140(d)(4) of the*
 8 *Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years*
 9 *1988 and 1989 (22 U.S.C. 2656f(d)(4)).*

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11 *(a) IN GENERAL.—The President may impose the*
 12 *sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to any*
 13 *foreign individual the President determines is a government*
 14 *official of any foreign state, subdivision, or municipality*
 15 *designated as a terrorist sanctuary under section 5 unless*
 16 *such official has taken significant, verifiable steps to stop*
 17 *such activity or the relevant jurisdiction no longer meets*
 18 *the definition of terrorist sanctuary under section 140(d)(4)*
 19 *of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years*
 20 *1988 and 1989 (22 U.S.C. 2656f(d)(4)).*

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22 *(1) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS AND ADMISSIONS*
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 13 *entry documentation issued to a foreign indi-*
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17 (B) *EFFECT OF REVOCATION.—A revocation*
 18 *under subparagraph (A) shall—*

19 (i) *take effect immediately; and*

20 (ii) *automatically cancel any other*
 21 *valid visa or entry documentation that is in*
 22 *the foreign individual's possession.*

23 (C) *RULEMAKING.—Not later than 180 days*
 24 *after the date of the enactment of this Act, the*
 25 *Secretary of State shall prescribe such regula-*

1 *tions as may be necessary to carry out this sub-*
 2 *section.*

3 (c) *EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT*
 4 *OBJECTIVES AND AGREEMENT REGARDING THE HEAD-*
 5 *QUARTERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS.*—*Sanctions under*
 6 *subsection (b) shall not apply to a foreign person if admit-*
 7 *ting the person into the United States—*

8 (1) *would further important law enforcement ob-*
 9 *jectives; or*

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 11 *comply with the Agreement regarding the Head-*
 12 *quarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Suc-*
 13 *cess June 26, 1947, and entered into force November*
 14 *21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United*
 15 *States, or other applicable international obligations of*
 16 *the United States.*

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18 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The President may waive the*
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 22 *for periods not to exceed 180 days, if the Presi-*
 23 *dent determines that such individual's entry or*
 24 *continued presence in the United States is vital*

1 *to the national security interests of the United*
2 *States;*

3 *(B) a jurisdiction, including a foreign*
4 *country, or any subdivision of such country, that*
5 *is designated as a terrorist sanctuary pursuant*
6 *to section 5, for periods not to exceed 1 year, if*
7 *the President determines that waiving the appli-*
8 *cation of sanctions with respect to officials or*
9 *other residents of such jurisdiction is in the na-*
10 *tional interest of the United States.*

11 *(2) REPORT.—Not later than 15 days before*
12 *granting or renewing a waiver under paragraph (1),*
13 *the President shall submit a report to the appropriate*
14 *congressional committees that includes—*

15 *(A) the name of the individual or the spe-*
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17 *(B) a detailed justification explaining how*
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20 *United States (for individuals); or*

21 *(ii) the national interest of the United*
22 *States (for jurisdictions); and*

23 *(C) with respect to renewals—*

1 (i) *an assessment of the individual's or*
 2 *jurisdiction's activities during the most re-*
 3 *cent waiver period; and*

4 (ii) *any conditions imposed to ensure*
 5 *compliance with United States interests.*

6 (e) *TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS.—The President may*
 7 *terminate the application of sanctions under this section*
 8 *with respect to a foreign individual if the President deter-*
 9 *mines and reports to the appropriate congressional commit-*
 10 *tees not later than 15 days before the termination of such*
 11 *sanctions that—*

12 (1) *the foreign individual is no longer engaged*
 13 *in the activity that was the basis for such sanctions*
 14 *or has taken significant verifiable steps toward stop-*
 15 *ping such activity;*

16 (2) *the President has received reliable assurances*
 17 *that such individual will not knowingly engage in*
 18 *any activity subject to sanctions under this section in*
 19 *the future; or*

20 (3) *the termination of such sanctions is in the*
 21 *national security interests of the United States.*

22 (f) *RULEMAKING.—The President shall issue such reg-*
 23 *ulations, licenses, and orders as may be necessary to carry*
 24 *out this section.*

1 **SEC. 7. SUNSET.**

2 *Any sanctions imposed pursuant to this Act shall ter-*
3 *minate 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.*

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