H. R. 1609

To amend the War Powers Resolution to limit the use of funds for introduction of the Armed Forces into hostilities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 15, 2011

Mr. GIBSON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the War Powers Resolution to limit the use of funds for introduction of the Armed Forces into hostilities, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “War Powers Reform Act of 2011”.

SECTION 2. PURPOSE AND POLICY.

Section 2(c) of the War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1541(c)) is amended—
(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “are exercised” and inserting “may be exercised”; 

(2) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end before the comma the following: “or obligation under a treaty”; and 

(3) in paragraph (3), by inserting after “attack” the following: “or imminent threat of attack”.

SEC. 3. LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR INTRODUCTION OF ARMED FORCES INTO HOSTILITIES.

The War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1541 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by striking sections 5, 6, and 7; 

(2) by redesignating sections 8, 9, and 10 as sections 6, 7, and 8, respectively; and 

(3) by inserting after section 4 the following:

“LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS 

“SEC. 5. (a) No funds available for the United States Armed Forces may be obligated or expended for introduction of the Armed Forces into hostilities, or into situations where imminent involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated by the circumstances, in the absence of a declaration of war, specific statutory authorization or obligation under a treaty, or a national emergency created by an attack or imminent threat of attack upon the United States, its territories or possessions, or the Armed Forces.
“(b) Nothing in this section shall be construed to pro-
hibit the use of funds for introduction of the Armed
Forces into hostilities, or into situations where imminent
involvement in hostilities is clearly indicated by the cir-
cumstances, to provide for the defense of Israel created
by an attack upon Israel.”.