To enhance strategic cooperation between the United States and Israel, and for other purposes.

A BILL

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 “United States-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act of 2012”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Since the State of Israel was established in 1948, Presidents of both parties and both Houses of Congress, supported by the American people, have
recognized the special bond between the United States and Israel, based on shared values and shared interests.

(2) The Middle East is undergoing rapid change, bringing with it hope for an expansion of democracy but also profound challenges to regional security—particularly to our most important ally, Israel—and to the national security of the United States.

(3) The past year has witnessed the fall of old regimes and the rise of political parties in the Middle East who must now choose between a course of moderation and inclusion in the international community or a course of extremism and isolation.

(4) The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is continuing its decades-long pattern of seeking to foment instability in the Middle East, particularly in this time of dramatic political transition.

(5) At the same time, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran continues to enrich uranium in defiance of international law.

(6) A nuclear-weapons capable Iran would fundamentally threaten vital United States interests, encourage regional nuclear proliferation, further empower Iran, the world’s leading state sponsor of ter-
ror, and pose a serious and destabilizing threat to
Israel and the region.

(7) Over the past several years, with the assistance of the Governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Syria, Hezbollah and Hamas have increased their stockpile of rockets, with more than 60,000 now ready to be fired at Israel. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran continues to develop its missile technology as well, including cruise missiles.

(8) As a result, the Government and people of Israel are facing a fundamentally altered strategic environment fraught with new and profound challenges.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF UNITED STATES POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States:

(1) To reaffirm our unwavering commitment to the security of the State of Israel as a Jewish state, as President Barack Obama stated on December 16, 2011, “America’s commitment and my commitment to Israel and Israel’s security is unshakeable,” and as President George W. Bush stated before the Israeli Knesset on May 15, 2008, on the 60th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel, “The alliance between our governments is unbreakable, yet
the source of our friendship runs deeper than any treaty.”.

(2) To provide the Government of Israel the military capabilities necessary to deter and defend itself against any threat or possible combination of threats.

(3) To assist the Government of Israel with its ongoing efforts to forge a peaceful, negotiated settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that results in two states living side-by-side in peace and security, and to encourage Israel’s neighbors to recognize Israel’s right to exist as a Jewish state.


(5) To support Israel’s inherent right to self-defense.

(6) To pursue every opportunity to expand cooperation with the Government of Israel on defense and national security matters and across the spectrum of civilian sectors, including advanced technology, agriculture, medicine, health, pharmaceuticals, and energy.
SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that the United States Government should take the following actions to assist in the defense of Israel:

(1) Seek to enhance the capabilities of the Governments of the United States and Israel to address emerging common threats, increase security cooperation, and expand joint military exercises.

(2) Work to encourage an expanded role for Israel within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), including an enhanced presence at NATO headquarters and exercises.

(3) Expand already-close intelligence cooperation, including satellite intelligence, with the Government of Israel.

(4) Examine ways to strengthen existing and ongoing efforts, including the Gaza Counter Arms Smuggling Initiative, aimed at preventing weapons smuggling into Gaza pursuant to the 2009 agreement following the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, as well as measures to protect against weapons smuggling and terrorist threats from the Sinai Peninsula.

(5) Provide the Government of Israel with necessary support to increase development and production of joint missile defense systems, particularly
such systems that defend the urgent threat posed to
Israel and United States forces in the region.

(6) Make every effort to assure the provision to
the Government of Israel of defensive equipment
through such mechanisms as lend-lease, to include
air refueling tankers, missile defense capabilities,
and specialized munitions.

(7) Undertake efforts to make available for pur-
chase by the Government of Israel surplus defense
items, particularly those resulting from the end of
United States combat operations in Iraq.

(8) Offer the Air Force of Israel additional
training and exercise opportunities in the United
States to compensate for Israel’s limited air space.

SEC. 5. ADDITIONAL STEPS TO DEFEND ISRAEL AND PRO-
TECT AMERICAN INTERESTS.

(a) Extension of War Reserves Stockpile Au-
thority.—

(1) Department of defense appropria-
tions act, 2005.—Section 12001(d) of the Depart-
ment of Defense Appropriations Act, 2005 (Public
Law 108–287; 118 Stat. 1011) is amended by strik-
ing “more than 8 years after” and inserting “more
than 10 years after”.

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(b) EXTENSION OF LOAN GUARANTEES TO ISRAEL.—Chapter 5 of title I of the Emergency Wartime Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2003 (Public Law 108–11; 117 Stat. 576) is amended under the heading “LOAN GUARANTEES TO ISRAEL”—

(1) in the matter preceding the first proviso, by striking “September 30, 2011” and inserting “September 30, 2015”; and

(2) in the second proviso, by striking “September 30, 2011” and inserting “September 30, 2015”.

SEC. 6. REPORTS REQUIRED.

(a) REPORT ON ISRAEL’S QUALITATIVE MILITARY EDGE (QME).—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the status of Israel’s qualitative military edge in light of current trends and instability in the Middle East region, including what, if any, mitigating technologies could be
provided to the Government of Israel to counter increasing
threats in the region.

(b) REPORTS ON OTHER MATTERS.—Not later than
180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
President shall submit to the appropriate congressional
committees a report on the following matters:

(1) Actions to improve the acquisition process
for the purchase of F–35 aircraft by Israel, particu-
larly with respect to cost efficiency and on-time de-

delivery, taking into account the urgent need of the
Government of Israel for such aircraft.

(2) Efforts to expand cooperation between the
United States Government and the Government of
Israel in homeland security, counter-terrorism, mar-
time security, energy, cyber-security, and other re-
lated areas.

(3) Actions to integrate Israel into the defense
of the Eastern Mediterranean.

SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
tees.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
mittees” means—

(A) the Committee on Appropriations, the
on Foreign Relations, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Appropriations, the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(2) QUALITATIVE MILITARY EDGE.—The term “qualitative military edge” has the meaning given the term in section 36(h)(2) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2776(h)(2)).