

In the House of Representatives, U. S.,

September 17, 2013.

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 793) entitled “An Act to support revitalization and reform of the Organization of American States, and for other purposes.”, do pass with the following

AMENDMENT:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

1 ***SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.***

2 *This Act may be cited as the “Organization of Amer-*
3 *ican States Revitalization and Reform Act of 2013”.*

4 ***SEC. 2. FINDINGS.***

5 *Congress makes the following findings:*

6 *(1) The Charter of the Organization of American*
7 *States recognizes that—*

8 *(A) representative democracy is indispen-*
9 *sable for the stability, peace, and development of*
10 *the Western Hemisphere; and*

11 *(B) a purpose of the Organization of Amer-*
12 *ican States is to promote and consolidate rep-*
13 *resentative democracy, with due respect for the*
14 *principle of nonintervention.*

1 (2) *The United States supports the purposes and*
2 *principles enshrined in—*

3 (A) *the Charter of the Organization of*
4 *American States;*

5 (B) *the Inter-American Democratic Charter;*

6 *and*

7 (C) *the American Declaration on the Rights*
8 *and Duties of Man.*

9 (3) *The United States supports the Organization*
10 *of American States in its efforts with all member*
11 *states to meet our commitments under the instru-*
12 *ments set forth in paragraph (2).*

13 (4) *Congress supports the Organization of Amer-*
14 *ican States as it operates in a manner consistent*
15 *with the Inter-American Democratic Charter.*

16 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

17 *It is the policy of the United States—*

18 (1) *to promote democracy and the rule of law*
19 *throughout the Western Hemisphere;*

20 (2) *to promote and protect human rights and*
21 *fundamental freedoms in the Western Hemisphere;*

22 *and*

23 (3) *to support the practices, purposes, and prin-*
24 *ciples expressed in the Charter of the Organization of*
25 *American States, the American Declaration on the*

1 *Rights and Duties of Man, the Inter-American Demo-*
2 *cratic Charter, and other fundamental instruments of*
3 *democracy.*

4 **SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

5 *It is the sense of Congress that—*

6 *(1) the Organization of American States (OAS)*
7 *should be the primary multi-lateral diplomatic entity*
8 *for regional dispute resolution and promotion of*
9 *democratic governance and institutions;*

10 *(2) the OAS is a valuable platform from which*
11 *to launch initiatives aimed to benefit the countries of*
12 *the Western Hemisphere;*

13 *(3) the Summit of the Americas institution and*
14 *process embodies a valuable complement to regional*
15 *dialogue and cooperation;*

16 *(4) the Summit of the Americas process should*
17 *be formally and more effectively integrated into the*
18 *work of the OAS, the Inter-American Development*
19 *Bank, and other Members of the Joint Summit Work-*
20 *ing Group, and the OAS should play a central role*
21 *in overseeing and managing the Summit process;*

22 *(5) the OAS General Assembly and the Summit*
23 *of the Americas events should be combined geographi-*
24 *cally and chronologically in the years in which they*
25 *coincide;*

1 (6) *the OAS has historically accepted too many*
2 *mandates from its member states, resulting in both*
3 *lack of clarity on priorities and loss of institutional*
4 *focus, which in turn has reduced the effectiveness of*
5 *the organization;*

6 (7) *to ensure an appropriate balance of prior-*
7 *ities, the OAS should review its core functions no less*
8 *than annually and seek opportunities to reduce the*
9 *number of mandates not directly related to its core*
10 *functions;*

11 (8) *key OAS strengths lie in strengthening peace*
12 *and security, promoting and consolidating represent-*
13 *ative democracy, regional dispute resolution, election*
14 *assistance and monitoring, fostering economic growth*
15 *and development cooperation, facilitating trade, com-*
16 *bating illicit drug trafficking and transnational*
17 *crime, and support for the Inter-American Human*
18 *Rights System;*

19 (9) *the core competencies referred to in para-*
20 *graph (8) should remain central to the strategic plan-*
21 *ning process of the OAS and the consideration of fu-*
22 *ture mandates;*

23 (10) *any new OAS mandates should be accepted*
24 *by the member states only after an analysis is con-*
25 *ducted and formally presented consisting of a calcula-*

1 *tion of the financial costs associated with the man-*
2 *date, an assessment of the comparative advantage of*
3 *the OAS in the implementation of the mandate, and*
4 *a description of the ways in which the mandate ad-*
5 *vances the organization's core mission;*

6 *(11) any new mandates should include, in addi-*
7 *tion to the analysis described in paragraph (10), an*
8 *identification of the source of funding to be used to*
9 *implement the mandate;*

10 *(12) the OAS would benefit from enhanced co-*
11 *ordination between the OAS and the Inter-American*
12 *Development Bank on issues that relate to economic*
13 *development;*

14 *(13) the OAS would benefit from standard re-*
15 *porting requirements for each project and grant*
16 *agreement;*

17 *(14) the OAS would benefit from effective imple-*
18 *mentation of—*

19 *(A) transparent and merit-based human re-*
20 *source standards and processes; and*

21 *(B) transparent hiring, firing, and pro-*
22 *motion standards and processes, including with*
23 *respect to factors such as gender and national or-*
24 *igin; and*

1 (15) *it is in the interest of the United States,*
 2 *OAS member states, and a modernized OAS to move*
 3 *toward an assessed fee structure that assures the fi-*
 4 *nancial sustainability of the organization and estab-*
 5 *lishes, not later than five years after the date of the*
 6 *enactment of this Act, that no member state pays*
 7 *more than 50 percent of the organization's assessed*
 8 *fees.*

9 **SEC. 5. ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES REVITALIZA-**
 10 **TION AND REFORM STRATEGY.**

11 (a) *STRATEGY.*—

12 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than 180 days after*
 13 *the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of*
 14 *State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Rela-*
 15 *tions of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Af-*
 16 *airs of the House of Representatives a multiyear*
 17 *strategy that—*

18 (A) *identifies a path toward the adoption of*
 19 *necessary reforms that prioritize and reinforce*
 20 *the OAS's core competencies described in section*
 21 *4(8);*

22 (B) *outlines an approach to secure from the*
 23 *OAS effective adoption of—*

24 (i) *a results-based budgeting process in*
 25 *order to strategically prioritize, and where*

1 *appropriate, reduce current and future*
2 *mandates; and*

3 *(ii) transparent hiring, firing, and*
4 *promotion practices;*

5 *(C) reflects the inputs and coordination*
6 *from other Executive Branch agencies, as appro-*
7 *priate; and*

8 *(D) identifies a path toward the adoption of*
9 *necessary reforms that would—*

10 *(i) lead to an assessed fee structure in*
11 *which no member state would pay more*
12 *than 50 percent of the OAS's assessed yearly*
13 *fees; and*

14 *(ii) seek to minimize the negative fi-*
15 *nancial impact on the OAS and its oper-*
16 *ations.*

17 (2) *POLICY PRIORITIES AND COORDINATION.—*

18 *The Secretary of State shall—*

19 *(A) carry out diplomatic engagement to*
20 *build support for reforms and budgetary burden*
21 *sharing among OAS member states and observ-*
22 *ers; and*

23 *(B) promote donor coordination among*
24 *OAS member states.*

1 **(b) BRIEFINGS.**—*The Secretary of State shall offer to*
2 *the committees referred to in subsection (a)(1) a quarterly*
3 *briefing that—*

4 (1) *reviews assessed and voluntary contributions;*

5 (2) *analyzes the progress made by the OAS to*
6 *adopt and effectively implement a results-based budg-*
7 *eting process in order to strategically prioritize, and*
8 *where appropriate, reduce current and future man-*
9 *dates;*

10 (3) *analyzes the progress made by the OAS to*
11 *adopt and effectively implement transparent and*
12 *merit-based human resource standards and practices*
13 *and transparent hiring, firing, and promotion stand-*
14 *ards and processes, including with respect to factors*
15 *such as gender and national origin;*

16 (4) *analyzes the progress made by the OAS to*
17 *adopt and effectively implement a practice of solici-*
18 *ting member quotas to be paid on a schedule that*
19 *will improve the consistency of its operating budget;*
20 *and*

21 (5) *analyzes the progress made by the OAS to re-*
22 *view, streamline, and prioritize mandates to focus on*

- 1 *core missions and make efficient and effective use of*
- 2 *available funding.*

Attest:

Clerk.

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 793

AMENDMENT