

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1652

To designate an existing Federal officer to coordinate efforts to secure the release of United States persons who are hostages of hostile groups or state sponsors of terrorism, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 23, 2015

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Ms. MIKULSKI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To designate an existing Federal officer to coordinate efforts to secure the release of United States persons who are hostages of hostile groups or state sponsors of terrorism, 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. INTERAGENCY HOSTAGE RECOVERY COORDI-**
4 **NATOR.**

5 (a) INTERAGENCY HOSTAGE RECOVERY COORDI-
6 NATOR.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after
8 the date of the enactment of this Act, the President

1 shall designate an existing Federal officer to coordi-
2 nate efforts to secure the release of United States
3 persons who are hostages of hostile groups or state
4 sponsors of terrorism. For purposes of carrying out
5 the duties described in paragraph (2), such officer
6 shall have the title of “Interagency Hostage Recov-
7 ery Coordinator”.

8 (2) DUTIES.—The Interagency Hostage Recov-
9 ery Coordinator shall have the following duties:

10 (A) Coordinate and direct all activities of
11 the Federal Government relating to each hos-
12 tage situation described in paragraph (1) to en-
13 sure efforts to secure the release of all hostages
14 in a hostage situation are properly resourced
15 and correct lines of authority are established
16 and maintained.

17 (B) Establish and direct a fusion cell con-
18 sisting of appropriate personnel of the Federal
19 Government with purview over each hostage sit-
20 uation described in paragraph (1).

21 (C) Develop a strategy to keep family
22 members of hostages described in paragraph (1)
23 informed of the status of such hostages and in-
24 form such family members of updates, proce-

1 dures, and policies that do not compromise the
2 national security of the United States.

3 (b) LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY.—The authority of
4 the Interagency Hostage Recovery Coordinator shall be
5 limited to hostage cases outside the United States.

6 (c) QUARTERLY REPORT.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—On a quarterly basis, the
8 Interagency Hostage Recovery Coordinator shall
9 submit to the appropriate congressional committees
10 and the Members of Congress described in para-
11 graph (2) a report that includes a summary of each
12 hostage situation described in subsection (a)(1) and
13 efforts to secure the release of all hostages in such
14 hostage situation.

15 (2) MEMBERS OF CONGRESS DESCRIBED.—The
16 Members of Congress described in this paragraph
17 are, with respect to a United States person hostage
18 covered by a report under paragraph (1), the Sen-
19 ators representing the State, and the Member, Dele-
20 gate, or Resident Commissioner of the House of
21 Representatives representing the district, where a
22 hostage described in subsection (a)(1) resides.

23 (3) FORM OF REPORT.—Each report under this
24 subsection may be submitted in classified or unclas-
25 sified form.

1 (d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
2 tion shall be construed as authorizing the Federal Govern-
3 ment to negotiate with a state sponsor of terrorism or an
4 organization that the Secretary of State has designated
5 as a foreign terrorist organization pursuant to section 219
6 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189)
7 or any other hostage-takers.

8 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) HOSTILE GROUP.—The term “hostile
10 group” means—

11 (A) a group that is designated as a foreign
12 terrorist organization under section 219(a) of
13 the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
14 1189(a));

15 (B) a group that is engaged in armed con-
16 flict with the United States; or

17 (C) any other group that the President de-
18 termines to be a hostile group for purposes of
19 this paragraph.

20 (2) STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM.—The term
21 “state sponsor of terrorism”—

22 (A) means a country the government of
23 which the Secretary of State has determined,
24 for purposes of section 6(j)(1)(A) of the Export
25 Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App.

1 2405(j)(1)(A)) (as continued in effect pursuant
2 to the International Emergency Economic Pow-
3 ers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.)), section
4 620A(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961
5 (22 U.S.C. 2371(a)), section 40(d) of the Arms
6 Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780(d)), or any
7 other provision of law, to be a government that
8 has repeatedly provided support for acts of
9 international terrorism; and
10 (B) includes North Korea.

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