

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 4531

To authorize an exception to the prohibition on the construction of naval vessels in foreign shipyards, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 13, 2024

Mr. LEE introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

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## A BILL

To authorize an exception to the prohibition on the construction of naval vessels in foreign shipyards, 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 “Ensuring Naval Readiness Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. EXCEPTION TO PROHIBITION ON CONSTRUCTION**  
7       **OF NAVAL VESSELS IN FOREIGN SHIPYARDS.**

8       Section 8679 of title 10, United States Code, is  
9       amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “subsection  
2 (b)” and inserting “subsections (b) and (c)”;

3 (2) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-  
4 section (d); and

5 (3) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-  
6 lowing new subsection (c):

7 “(c) EXCEPTION FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NAVAL  
8 VESSELS IN CERTAIN COUNTRIES.—(1) Subsection (a)  
9 shall not apply with respect to the construction of a naval  
10 vessel otherwise covered by that subsection if—

11 “(A) the foreign shipyard concerned is located  
12 in—

13 “(i) a North Atlantic Treaty Organization  
14 member country; or

15 “(ii) a country in the Indo-Pacific region  
16 that is party to a mutual defense treaty with  
17 United States; and

18 “(B) the cost of the construction concerned is  
19 less than the cost would be if such construction oc-  
20 curred in a domestic shipyard.

21 “(2) Before the construction of a naval vessel, or a  
22 major component of the hull or superstructure of a naval  
23 vessel, may commence at a foreign shipyard under this  
24 subsection, the Secretary of the Navy shall submit to Con-  
25 gress a certification that the foreign shipyard is not owned

- 1 or operated by a Chinese company or a multinational com-
- 2 pany domiciled in the People's Republic of China.”.

