

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1238

To authorize the President of the United States to issue letters of marque and reprisal with respect to acts of aggression against the United States by a member of a cartel, or a member of a cartel-linked organization, or any conspirator associated with a cartel, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 12, 2025

Mr. BURCHETT (for himself and Mr. MESSMER) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the President of the United States to issue letters of marque and reprisal with respect to acts of aggression against the United States by a member of a cartel, or a member of a cartel-linked organization, or any conspirator associated with a cartel, 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 “Cartel Marque and
5 Reprisal Authorization Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution
4 grants the Congress the power to grant letters of
5 marque and reprisal to punish, deter, and prevent
6 the acts of aggression and depredations and other
7 acts of war committed by cartel conspirators.

8 (2) Cartels present an unusual and extraor-
9 dinary threat to national security and foreign policy
10 of the United States.

11 **SEC. 3. ISSUANCE OF LETTERS OF MARQUE AND REPRISAL.**

12 (a) **AUTHORITY OF PRESIDENT.**—The President of
13 the United States is authorized and requested to commis-
14 sion, under officially issued letters of marque and reprisal,
15 so many of privately armed and equipped persons and en-
16 tities as, in the judgment of the President, the service may
17 require, with suitable instructions to the leaders thereof,
18 to employ all means reasonably necessary to seize outside
19 the geographic boundaries of the United States and its
20 territories the person and property of any individual who
21 the President determines is a member of a cartel, a mem-
22 ber of a cartel-linked organization, or a conspirator associ-
23 ated with a cartel or a cartel-linked organization, who is
24 responsible for an act of aggression against the United
25 States.

1 (b) SECURITY BONDS.—No letter of marque and re-
2 prisal shall be issued by the President without requiring
3 the posting of a security bond in such amount as the
4 President shall determine is sufficient to ensure that the
5 letter be executed according to the terms and conditions
6 thereof.

7 (c) DEFINITION OF CARTEL.—In this section, the
8 term “cartel” means an organization that—

9 (1) is described in section 1 of the executive
10 order titled “Designating Cartels And Other Organi-
11 zations As Foreign Terrorist Organizations and Spe-
12 cially Designated Global Terrorists” and dated Jan-
13 uary 20, 2025; or

14 (2) is a “transnational criminal organization”
15 under the meaning given that term in section
16 3003(5) of the Public Law 118–50 (21 U.S.C.
17 2341(5)).

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