

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1530

To amend the Justice for United States Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Act to clarify and supplement the funding sources for United States victims of state-sponsored terrorism to ensure consistent and meaningful distributions from the United States Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Fund, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 24, 2025

Mr. LAWLER (for himself, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. GARBARINO, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LALOTA, Ms. TITUS, Ms. MENG, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. RYAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. NADLER, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. PALLONE, and Ms. GILLEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To amend the Justice for United States Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Act to clarify and supplement the funding sources for United States victims of state-sponsored terrorism to ensure consistent and meaningful distributions from the United States Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Fund, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2       This Act may be cited as the “American Victims of  
3 Terrorism Compensation Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. TRANSFER OF CERTAIN FUNDS INTO UNITED**  
5 **STATES VICTIMS OF STATE SPONSORED TER-**  
6 **RORISM FUND.**

7       (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 404 of the Justice for  
8 United States Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Act  
9 (34 U.S.C. 20144) is amended—

10           (1) in subsection (d)(4), by adding at the end  
11 the following:

12           “(E) FIFTH-ROUND PAYMENTS.—All fifth-  
13 round payments required to be authorized by  
14 the Special Master on or before January 1,  
15 2025, shall be distributed to eligible claimants  
16 not later than March 14, 2025, or, if an eligible  
17 claimant has not provided the Special Master  
18 with the payment information required for dis-  
19 tribution, as soon as practicable after the date  
20 of receipt by the Special Master of such infor-  
21 mation.”; and

22           (2) in subsection (e)(2), by adding at the end  
23 the following:

24           “(C) CERTAIN ASSIGNED AND FORFEITED  
25 ASSETS.—

26           “(i) BINANCE HOLDINGS LIMITED.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—

“(aa) ALREADY DEPOSITED.—The sum of \$898,619,225, corresponding to the funds, and the net proceeds from the sale of property, forfeited to the United States from or in connection with the plea agreement in the proceedings captioned as United States v. Binance Holdings Limited, No. 2:23-cr-00178 (RAJ) (W.D. Wash. filed Nov. 14, 2023), already deposited into the Fund.

“(bb) ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—The sum of \$1,912,031,763, corresponding to a portion of the funds, and the net proceeds from the sale of property, forfeited or paid to the United States arising from or in connection with the proceedings described in item (aa) or any related civil or administrative proceedings.

1                   “(cc) INTEREST.—All inter-  
2                   est earned on the amounts de-  
3                   scribed in item (aa) or (bb) from  
4                   the date of such forfeiture or  
5                   payment.

6                   “(II) DEPOSIT IN CVF.—The  
7                   sum of \$1,505,475,575, from the  
8                   funds, and the net proceeds from the  
9                   sale of property, paid to the United  
10                  States arising from or in connection  
11                  with proceedings described in sub-  
12                  clause (I)(aa) shall be deposited into  
13                  the Crime Victims Fund established  
14                  under section 1402 of the Victims of  
15                  Crime Act of 1984 (34 U.S.C.  
16                  20101).

17                  “(III) TIMING.—An agency of  
18                  the United States shall deposit or  
19                  transfer into the Fund any amount  
20                  paid by a defendant in such pro-  
21                  ceedings that is required to be depos-  
22                  ited into the Fund pursuant to sub-  
23                  clause (I), plus any interest earned  
24                  thereon, not later than the later of—

1 “(aa) 30 days after the re-  
2 ceipt of such amount by the  
3 agency; or

4 “(bb) 15 days after the date  
5 of enactment of this subpara-  
6 graph.

7 “(ii) DOJ ASSETS FORFEITURE  
8 FUND.—

9 “(I) IN GENERAL.—Fifty percent  
10 of the excess unobligated balance, as  
11 defined in section 524(c)(8) of title  
12 28, United States Code, of the De-  
13 partment of Justice Assets Forfeiture  
14 Fund established under 524(c)(1) of  
15 that title, determined on the later of  
16 January 31, or the date of enactment  
17 of a final appropriations Act for each  
18 fiscal year, to be transferred annually  
19 thereafter not later than 30 days after  
20 the date of such determination, plus  
21 50 percent of any interest amount  
22 earned on the investment of any bal-  
23 ance of the Assets Forfeiture Fund as  
24 of that date.

1           “(II) TRANSFERS.—No transfer  
2           pursuant to this subparagraph shall  
3           count against any limitation on the  
4           use of the excess unobligated balances  
5           described in subclause (I) as provided  
6           in an annual appropriations Act or  
7           other legislation.

8           “(III) EXCLUSION OF RESCIS-  
9           SIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR AFTER DE-  
10          TERMINATION OF AMOUNT.—For pur-  
11          poses of subclause (I), the amount of  
12          the unobligated balance of the Depart-  
13          ment of Justice Asset Forfeiture  
14          Fund, as of September 30 of a fiscal  
15          year, shall be determined without re-  
16          gard to any rescission of amounts in  
17          the fund for the next fiscal year in-  
18          cluded in an appropriation Act re-  
19          ferred to in section 105 of title 1,  
20          United States Code, including any an-  
21          ticipated or potential rescission and  
22          any rescission given continuing effect  
23          for such next fiscal year under an Act  
24          making continuing appropriations for  
25          such next fiscal year.

1                   “(iii)       TREASURY       FORFEITURE  
2                   FUND.—

3                   “(I) IN GENERAL.—Fifty percent  
4                   of the excess unobligated balance of  
5                   the Department of the Treasury For-  
6                   feiture Fund established under section  
7                   9705 of title 31, United States Code,  
8                   determined on the later of January  
9                   31, or the date of enactment of a final  
10                  appropriations Act for each fiscal  
11                  year, to be transferred annually there-  
12                  after not later than 30 days after  
13                  such determination, plus 50 percent of  
14                  any interest amount earned on the in-  
15                  vestment of any balance of the Treas-  
16                  ury Forfeiture Fund as of that date.

17                  “(II) TRANSFERS.—No transfer  
18                  pursuant to this subparagraph shall  
19                  count against any limitation on the  
20                  use of excess unobligated balances de-  
21                  scribed in subclause (I) as provided in  
22                  an annual appropriations Act or other  
23                  legislation.

24                  “(III) DEFINITION OF EXCESS  
25                  UNOBLIGATED BALANCE.—

1           “(aa) IN GENERAL.—In this  
2 clause, the term ‘excess unobli-  
3 gated balance’ means the dif-  
4 ference between—

5           “(AA) the unobligated  
6 balance of the Department  
7 of the Treasury Forfeiture  
8 Fund, as of September 30 of  
9 the fiscal year before the  
10 date specified in subclause  
11 (I); and

12           “(BB) the amount that  
13 is required to be retained in  
14 the Department of the  
15 Treasury Forfeiture Fund to  
16 ensure the availability of  
17 amounts in the fiscal year  
18 after the fiscal year de-  
19 scribed in subitem (AA) for  
20 the purposes for which  
21 amounts in the fund are au-  
22 thorized to be used.

23           “(bb) EXCLUSION OF RE-  
24 SCISSIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR  
25 AFTER DETERMINATION OF



1 AMOUNT.—For purposes of sub-  
2 clause (I), the amount of the un-  
3 obligated balance of the Depart-  
4 ment of the Treasury Forfeiture  
5 Fund, as of September 30 of a  
6 fiscal year, shall be determined  
7 without regard to any rescission  
8 of amounts in the fund for the  
9 next fiscal year included in an  
10 appropriation Act referred to in  
11 section 105 of title 1, United  
12 States Code, including any antici-  
13 pated or potential rescission and  
14 any rescission given continuing  
15 effect for such next fiscal year  
16 under an Act making continuing  
17 appropriations for such next fis-  
18 cal year.

19 “(D) INTEREST.—All interest earned on  
20 any amount deposited or to be deposited into  
21 the Fund pursuant to this section, the Amer-  
22 ican Victims of Terrorism Compensation Act, or  
23 an amendment made by that Act, following re-  
24 ceipt of such amount by any agency of the  
25 United States, including all interest earned on

1 the amounts described in subparagraph  
 2 (C)(i).”.

3 (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in the  
 4 amendments made by subsection (a) shall be construed to  
 5 harm, jeopardize, or impair any amounts previously identi-  
 6 fied for equitable sharing with law enforcement or to limit  
 7 the right of a direct crime victim to receive restitution or-  
 8 dered by a court before the date of enactment of this Act  
 9 with respect to any offense in a matter or proceeding from  
 10 which amounts are to be deposited into the Fund pursuant  
 11 to the amendments made by subsection (a).

12 **SEC. 3. TIMING OF DEPOSIT OF PENALTIES AND FINES**  
 13 **INTO THE UNITED STATES VICTIMS OF STATE**  
 14 **SPONSORED TERRORISM FUND.**

15 (a) FORFEITED FUNDS AND PROPERTY.—Section  
 16 404(e)(2)(A) of the Justice for United States Victims of  
 17 State Sponsored Terrorism Act (34 U.S.C.  
 18 20144(e)(2)(A)) is amended—

- 19 (1) in clause (i), by striking “forfeited or”;  
 20 (2) in clause (ii), by striking “forfeited or”; and  
 21 (3) by adding at the end the following:

22 “(iii) FORFEITURES.—

23 “(I) IN GENERAL.—All funds,  
 24 and the net proceeds from the sale of  
 25 property, forfeited to the United

1 States after the date of enactment of  
2 the American Victims of Terrorism  
3 Compensation Act, in a matter or pro-  
4 ceeding arising from a violation of any  
5 license, order, regulation or prohibi-  
6 tion issued under the International  
7 Emergency Economic Powers Act (50  
8 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) or the Trading  
9 with the Enemy Act (50 U.S.C. App.  
10 1 et seq.) and all funds, and the net  
11 proceeds from the sale of property,  
12 forfeited to the United States after  
13 the date of enactment of the Amer-  
14 ican Victims of Terrorism Compensa-  
15 tion Act, in a matter or proceeding in-  
16 volving, or relating to, or arising from  
17 the actions of, or doing business with,  
18 or acting on behalf of, a state sponsor  
19 of terrorism, without regard to the  
20 nature of the offense.

21 “(II) SCOPE.—All funds and net  
22 proceeds described in this clause shall  
23 be deposited or transferred into the  
24 Fund if the state sponsor of terrorism  
25 was so designated at the time of the

1 penalty or fine, at any time during the  
2 course of any related legal pro-  
3 ceedings, or at the time of any related  
4 conduct.

5 “(III) RULES OF CONSTRUC-  
6 TION.—Nothing in this clause shall be  
7 construed to limit any rights to court-  
8 ordered restitution of any direct crime  
9 victim of an offense in a matter or  
10 proceeding from which amounts are to  
11 be deposited into the Fund pursuant  
12 to this subparagraph. Nothing in the  
13 American Victims of Terrorism Com-  
14 pensation Act or an amendment made  
15 by that Act that clarifies the scope of  
16 forfeiture proceeds to be deposited  
17 into the Fund shall be construed to  
18 impact the scope or interpretation of  
19 criminal or civil penalties or fines that  
20 are required to be deposited into the  
21 Fund under clause (i) or (ii) of this  
22 subparagraph, which scope is the sub-  
23 ject of pending litigation and shall be  
24 addressed in such litigation or by fu-  
25 ture legislation as warranted, includ-

1 ing as informed by the report by the  
2 Comptroller General of the United  
3 States regarding proceeds available  
4 for deposit to the Fund required  
5 under subsection (b)(1)(A)(v).

6 “(iv) TIMING.—An agency of the  
7 United States shall deposit or transfer into  
8 the Fund all funds, and the net proceeds  
9 from the sale of property, forfeited or paid  
10 to the United States described in this sub-  
11 paragraph not later than the later of—

12 “(I) 60 days after the receipt of  
13 such amount by the agency; or

14 “(II) 30 days after the date of  
15 enactment of this clause.”.

16 **SEC. 4. ANNUAL PAYMENTS.**

17 Section 404(d)(4) of the Justice for United States  
18 Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Act (34 U.S.C.  
19 20144(d)(4)) is amended by striking subparagraph (A)  
20 and inserting the following:

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in  
22 subparagraphs (B), (C), and (D), on January  
23 1, 2026, and January 1 of each calendar year  
24 thereafter, the Special Master or the Attorney  
25 General shall authorize additional payments on

1 a pro rata basis to those claimants with eligible  
2 claims under subsection (c)(2) to include all  
3 amounts received as of that date by any agency  
4 of the United States that qualifies for deposit  
5 or transfer into the Fund, plus all interest  
6 earned from the date of receipt of any such  
7 amounts through the date of deposit or transfer  
8 into the Fund that has not already been distrib-  
9 uted pursuant to this subsection and is not re-  
10 quired for the payment of administrative costs  
11 or compensation as set forth in subparagraphs  
12 (B) and (C) of subsection (b)(1). All authorized  
13 payments shall be distributed to the eligible  
14 claimants as soon as practicable in the calendar  
15 year of authorization, or, if the Special Master  
16 or Attorney General authorizes payments prior  
17 to January 1, not later than 1 year after the  
18 date of such authorization.”.

19 **SEC. 5. REPORT OF FUND ACTIVITY.**

20 Section 404(b)(1)(A) of the Justice for United States  
21 Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Act (34 U.S.C.  
22 20144(b)(1)(A)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
23 lowing:

24 “(iv) ATTORNEY GENERAL REPORT.—

1                   “(I) REPORT.—On January 31  
2 of each year, the Special Master shall  
3 submit to the chairman and ranking  
4 minority member of the Committee on  
5 the Judiciary of the Senate and the  
6 chairman and ranking minority mem-  
7 ber of the Committee on the Judiciary  
8 of the House of Representatives a re-  
9 port on the balance and activity of the  
10 Fund, which shall include—

11                   “(aa) the total amount in  
12 the Fund at the end of the pre-  
13 ceding fiscal year;

14                   “(bb) deposits into the Fund  
15 during the preceding fiscal year  
16 sufficient to identify the source,  
17 including, if applicable, the case  
18 name and the amount of each de-  
19 posit, except to the extent that  
20 any sealing order requires any  
21 portion of such information to re-  
22 main confidential;

23                   “(cc) disbursements from  
24 the Fund during the preceding  
25 fiscal year sufficient to identify

1 specific amounts disbursed for  
2 victim compensation and other  
3 purposes, including for adminis-  
4 trative costs and use of Depart-  
5 ment of Justice personnel;

6 “(dd) the amount, and the  
7 basis for the calculation, of any  
8 funds deposited into the Fund  
9 from the Department of Justice  
10 Assets Forfeiture Fund estab-  
11 lished under 524(c)(1) of title 28,  
12 United States Code, and the De-  
13 partment of the Treasury For-  
14 feiture Fund established under  
15 section 9705 of title 31, United  
16 States Code, in the prior fiscal  
17 year;

18 “(ee) an explanation of any  
19 amounts not deposited into the  
20 Fund as a result of any rule of  
21 construction pursuant to this Act  
22 or the American Victims of Ter-  
23 rorism Compensation Act; and

24 “(ff) an explanation of all  
25 amounts from or relating to



1 cases qualifying for deposit under  
2 this Act that are not deposited  
3 into the Fund as a result of  
4 inter-agency credits, administra-  
5 tive costs, or any other reason.

6 “(II) PUBLICATION.—Not later  
7 than March 1 of each year, the Attor-  
8 ney General shall publish the report  
9 required under subclause (I) on the  
10 internet website of the Fund.

11 “(v) GAO REPORT REGARDING PRO-  
12 CEEDS AVAILABLE FOR DEPOSIT TO THE  
13 FUND.—Not later than April 1, 2025, the  
14 Comptroller General of the United States  
15 shall submit to Congress a report, which  
16 shall include—

17 “(I) a listing of all funds, and  
18 the net proceeds from the sale of  
19 property, forfeited or paid to the  
20 United States since January 1, 2020,  
21 in an amount greater than  
22 \$10,000,000 as a criminal penalty or  
23 fine in any matter, sufficient to iden-  
24 tify the source, including, if applica-  
25 ble, the case name and the amount of

1 each forfeiture or payment, except to  
2 the extent that any sealing order re-  
3 quires any portion of such information  
4 to remain confidential;

5 “(II) a listing of all funds, and  
6 the net proceeds from the sale of  
7 property, forfeited or paid to the  
8 United States since January 1, 2020,  
9 in an amount greater than  
10 \$10,000,000 as a civil penalty or fine  
11 in any matter, sufficient to identify  
12 the source, including, if applicable, the  
13 case name and the amount of each  
14 forfeiture or payment, except to the  
15 extent that any sealing order requires  
16 any portion of such information to re-  
17 main confidential;

18 “(III) an explanation of where  
19 each amount described in subclause  
20 (I) or (II) was deposited, including  
21 deposits into the Fund or the Crime  
22 Victims Fund, which shall include the  
23 nature of each such deposit, and the  
24 statutory basis for each such deposit;  
25 and

1 “(IV) any interest amount earned  
2 on each amount described in sub-  
3 clause (I) or (II).

4 “(vi) GAO TRIENNIAL REPORT.—Not  
5 later than January 1, 2027, and every 3  
6 years thereafter, the Comptroller General  
7 of the United States shall submit to Con-  
8 gress a report—

9 “(I) evaluating the administra-  
10 tion of the Fund and the sufficiency  
11 of funding for the Fund;

12 “(II) analyzing funding and pay-  
13 ment trends; and

14 “(III) describing amounts out-  
15 standing and unpaid on eligible claims  
16 overall, including such amounts  
17 disaggregated by victim group and by  
18 when victims entered the Fund.”.

19 **SEC. 6. ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS AND USE OF DEPARTMENT**  
20 **OF JUSTICE PERSONNEL.**

21 Section 404(b)(1) of the Justice for United States  
22 Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Act (34 U.S.C.  
23 20144(b)(1)) is amended by striking subparagraph (B)  
24 and inserting the following:

Section 404(d)(4)(D)(iv)(IV) of the Justice for United States Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Act (34 U.S.C. 20144(d)(4)(D)(iv)(IV)) is amended by striking item (bb) and inserting the following:

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1 into the Fund under this section,  
2 including all interest earned on  
3 amounts in the lump sum catch-  
4 up payment reserve fund. All  
5 such amounts, including interest,  
6 shall be included in a supple-  
7 mental fifth-round distribution to  
8 be authorized by the Special  
9 Master no later than April 1,  
10 2025, and distributed pursuant  
11 to this section no later than June  
12 30, 2025 to all claimants for  
13 whom the Special Master author-  
14 ized fifth-round distributions.”.

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