

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4577

To take measures with respect to certain property that is nationalized or expropriated by certain foreign governments, to amend section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 to include expropriation of the assets of United States persons in acts, policies, and practices of foreign countries that are unreasonable or discriminatory, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 21, 2025

Mr. PFLUGER (for himself, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. STRONG, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. McDOWELL, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. PALMER, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. MCGUIRE, Mr. MOORE of North Carolina, Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. LUTTRELL, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. KEAN, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. CLINE, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. FIGURES, and Mr. STEUBE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To take measures with respect to certain property that is nationalized or expropriated by certain foreign governments, to amend section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 to include expropriation of the assets of United States persons in acts, policies, and practices of foreign countries that are unreasonable or discriminatory, 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 “Defending American
5 Property Abroad Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. IDENTIFICATION AND PROHIBITIONS WITH RE-**
7 **SPECT TO PROPERTY NATIONALIZED OR EX-**
8 **PROPRIATED BY CERTAIN FOREIGN GOVERN-**
9 **MENTS.**

10 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

11 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
12 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
13 mittees” means—

14 (A) the Committee on Homeland Security
15 and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on
16 Foreign Relations, the Committee on Finance,
17 and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the
18 Senate; and

19 (B) the Committee on Homeland Security,
20 the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Com-
21 mittee on Ways and Means, and the Permanent
22 Select Committee on Intelligence of the House
23 of Representatives.

24 (2) COVERED FOREIGN TRADE PARTNER.—The
25 term “covered foreign trade partner” means a coun-

try in the Western Hemisphere that has in effect a free trade agreement with the United States.

(3) PASSENGER VESSEL.—The term “passenger vessel” means a vessel that—

(A) is authorized to carry 149 or more passengers;

(B) has onboard sleeping facilities for each passenger;

(C) is on a voyage that embarks or disembarks passengers; and

(D) is not engaged in a coastwise voyage subject to chapter 105 of title 46, United States Code.

(4) PROHIBITED PROPERTY.—The term “prohibited property” means any port, harbor, or marine terminal, including any relevant port infrastructure—

(A) that is located within the territory of a covered foreign trade partner;

(B) that is accessible only through land that is owned, held, or controlled, directly or indirectly, by a United States person; and

(C) if an agency or official of the government of the covered foreign trade partner has, on or after January 1, 2024—

1 (i) nationalized, forcibly limited, or ex-
2 propriated the land described in subpara-
3 graph (B);

4 (ii) repudiated or nullified any con-
5 tract, permit, concession, easement, or
6 similar authorization with a United States
7 person related to that land; or

8 (iii) taken any other action that has
9 the effect of seizing ownership or control of
10 that land.

11 (5) RELEVANT PORT INFRASTRUCTURE.—The
12 term “relevant port infrastructure” means the fol-
13 lowing infrastructure at a port or harbor:

14 (A) Conveyors and other equipment used
15 to load or unload freight or passenger vessels.

16 (B) Roads and pathways used to load or
17 unload freight or passenger vessels.

18 (C) Docks and piers used to load or unload
19 freight or passenger vessels.

20 (D) Moorings, dolphins, or other structures
21 used for anchoring freight or passenger vessels.

22 (E) Silos, domes, or other structures used
23 for the storage of any good, ware, article, mer-
24 chandise, or other freight.

1 (F) Offices, facilities, and other buildings
2 used for the administration and security of the
3 port or harbor.

4 (6) UNITED STATES.—The term “United
5 States” includes the 50 States, the District of Co-
6 lumbia, and any territory or possession of the
7 United States.

8 (7) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term
9 “United States person” means—

10 (A) a United States citizen or an alien law-
11 fully admitted for permanent residence to the
12 United States; or

13 (B) an entity not less than 50 percent of
14 the ownership interest in which is owned by
15 United States citizens.

16 (b) DESIGNATION OF PROHIBITED PROPERTY.—Not
17 later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this
18 Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation
19 with and with the concurrence of the Secretary of the
20 Treasury and the Secretary of State, shall—

21 (1) identify and designate all prohibited prop-
22 erty;

23 (2) provide a list of all prohibited property des-
24 ignated under paragraph (1) to—

1 (A) the agencies and officials within the
2 Department of Homeland Security, the Depart-
3 ment of the Treasury, and the Department of
4 State responsible for the implementation of sub-
5 section (c); and

6 (B) the appropriate congressional commit-
7 tees; and

8 (3) publish the list required under paragraph
9 (2) in the Federal Register.

10 (c) PROHIBITIONS ON USE OF PROHIBITED PROP-
11 erty.—The President shall prohibit any vessel loaded or
12 previously held at a port, harbor, or marine terminal that
13 is designated as prohibited property under subsection
14 (b)(1) from—

15 (1) importing into the United States any good;

16 (2) releasing into the United States any good;

17 (3) docking any passenger vessel in the United
18 States;

19 (4) releasing into the United States any pas-
20 senger from a passenger vessel; or

21 (5) dry docking, completing repair work, refur-
22 bishing, victualing, refueling, or conducting any
23 other servicing or maintenance-related activities.

1 **SEC. 3. EXPANSION OF ACTS, POLICIES, AND PRACTICES**
2 **THAT ARE UNREASONABLE OR DISCRIMINA-**
3 **TORY UNDER TITLE III OF THE TRADE ACT**
4 **OF 1974.**

5 Section 301(d)(3)(B) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19
6 U.S.C. 2411(d)(3)(B)) is amended—

7 (1) in clause (iii)(V), by striking “, or” and in-
8 serting a comma;

9 (2) by moving clause (iv) 2 ems to the left;

10 (3) in clause (iv), by striking the period at the
11 end and inserting “, or”; and

12 (4) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(v) constitutes, with respect to the
14 assets of a United States person—

15 “(I) direct or indirect expropria-
16 tion or nationalization,

17 “(II) arbitrary or capricious
18 treatment,

19 “(III) denial of due process, or

20 “(IV) discrimination on the basis
21 of nationality.”.

○