

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5793

To strengthen strategic defense cooperation between the United States and NATO allies on the Eastern Flank, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 17, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina (for himself and Mr. COHEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, 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 strengthen strategic defense cooperation between the United States and NATO allies on the Eastern Flank, 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 “Eastern Flank Stra-
5 tegic Partnership Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) The frontline North Atlantic Treaty Organi-
2 zation (NATO) allies of Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland,
3 Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, and
4 Slovakia play a critical role in regional and trans-
5 atlantic security.

6 (2) Those NATO allies have demonstrated con-
7 sistent commitments to NATO defense spending tar-
8 gets, support for Ukraine, and forward deployments
9 to deter Russian aggression.

10 (3) Those NATO allies are on the front line of
11 detering and defending against threats from Russia
12 and Belarus, and require continued United States
13 coordination, defense cooperation, and security as-
14 sistance.

15 (4) Ukraine is on the front line of United
16 States and NATO security, fighting to defend itself
17 against Russian aggression that could also be turned
18 upon those same NATO allies.

19 (5) The United States possesses existing au-
20 thorities and tools, including assistance under the
21 Foreign Military Financing program under section
22 23 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C.
23 2763), assistance under section 333 of title 10,
24 United States Code, transfer of excess defense arti-
25 cles under section 516 of the Foreign Assistance Act

1 of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j), and the War Reserve
2 Stocks for Allies program administered under sec-
3 tion 514 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22
4 U.S.C. 2321h), that can be used to enhance resil-
5 ience, logistics, and interoperability with those
6 NATO allies.

7 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this Act:

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

12 (A) the Committee on Armed Services of
13 the House of Representatives; and

14 (B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
15 the House of Representatives.

16 (2) EASTERN FLANK STRATEGIC DEFENSE
17 PARTNER.—The term “Eastern Flank strategic de-
18 fense partner”—

19 (A) means a NATO member state that—

20 (i) shares a border with, or is in di-
21 rect geographic proximity to, the Russian
22 Federation, the Republic of Belarus, or
23 Ukraine, and plays a role in the defense of
24 NATO’s Eastern Flank due to its geo-
25 graphic proximity to those countries;

(ii) has committed to allocating 5 percent of its gross domestic product annually to defense by 2035, including at least 3.5 percent for meeting core defense requirements and NATO capability targets and 1.5 percent for other defense- and security-related investments;

(iii) hosts or supports the forward deployment of NATO military forces, including rotational deployments; and

(iv) faces persistent threats from hostile state actors; and

(B) includes Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, and Slovakia.

SEC. 4. POLICY AND PRIORITY FOR STRATEGIC DEFENSE COOPERATION.

(a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to recognize the critical role of Eastern Flank strategic defense partners in defending NATO's Eastern Flank, deterring aggression from hostile state actors, and advancing transatlantic security;

1 (2) to prioritize cooperation with Eastern Flank
2 strategic defense partners in the implementation of
3 defense cooperation authorities;

4 (3) to treat Eastern Flank strategic defense
5 partners as priority recipients of security assistance
6 under security assistance authorities; and

7 (4) to support Ukraine, including with the secu-
8 rity assistance necessary to deter Russian aggression
9 against allies along NATO's Eastern Flank.

10 (b) **PRIORITY.**—The Secretary of State and the Sec-
11 retary of Defense shall, as appropriate and consistent with
12 law, give priority to Eastern Flank strategic defense part-
13 ners for the following:

14 (1) Assistance under the Foreign Military Fi-
15 nancing program under section 23 of the Arms Ex-
16 port Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2763).

17 (2) Assistance under section 333 of title 10,
18 United States Code (relating to authority to build
19 the capacity of foreign security forces).

20 (3) Transfer of excess defense articles under
21 section 516 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961
22 (22 U.S.C. 2321j).

23 (4) Participation in bilateral and multilateral
24 military exercises, interoperability training, logistics,
25 and forward mobility planning.

1 (c) IMPLEMENTATION.—The policy established by
2 subsection (a) and the priority established by subsection
3 (b) shall be implemented to reinforce bilateral defense co-
4 operation arrangements, including defense cooperation
5 agreements, status of forces agreements, and other bilat-
6 eral or multilateral agreements.

7 **SEC. 5. STOCKPILING AND PRE-POSITIONING OF DEFENSE**
8 **ARTICLES.**

9 Consistent with operational requirements and in con-
10 sultation with NATO allies, and with the goal of increas-
11 ing regional deterrence and reducing strategic response
12 time, the Secretary of Defense shall—

13 (1) prioritize Eastern Flank strategic defense
14 partners under the War Reserve Stocks for Allies
15 program administered under section 514 of the For-
16 eign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321h); and

17 (2) consider expanding stockpiles under such
18 program in additional Eastern Flank strategic de-
19 fense partner countries, as appropriate.

20 **SEC. 6. CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING.**

21 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
22 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination
23 with the Secretary of State, shall brief the appropriate
24 congressional committees on the implementation of sec-

- 1 tions 3 and 4, including timelines, goals, and cooperative
- 2 mechanisms.

