

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7311

To authorize the President to impose sanctions with respect to any foreign person or entity that hinders, obstructs or delays Lebanon’s electoral process, including efforts to restrict or prevent Lebanese citizens abroad from voting in parliamentary elections, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 2, 2026

Mr. ISSA (for himself and Mr. LAHOOD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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 authorize the President to impose sanctions with respect to any foreign person or entity that hinders, obstructs or delays Lebanon’s electoral process, including efforts to restrict or prevent Lebanese citizens abroad from voting in parliamentary elections, 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 “Lebanon Election In-
5 tegrity and Diaspora Voting Protection Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Free, fair, and timely elections are essential
4 to Lebanon's sovereignty, political stability, and
5 democratic governance.

6 (2) Lebanon's constitution and electoral laws
7 provide for participation by Lebanese citizens resid-
8 ing abroad in parliamentary elections.

9 (3) Lebanon's diaspora population – estimated
10 in the millions – plays a critical role in the country's
11 civic, political, and economic life.

12 (4) Hezbollah and other armed groups, corrupt
13 political elites, and foreign actors have historically
14 exerted undue influence over Lebanon's political
15 processes, including voter intimidation, manipulation
16 of electoral administration, and obstruction of re-
17 forms enabling diaspora voting.

18 (5) Protecting the rights of Lebanese voters, in-
19 cluding those abroad, is in the national security in-
20 terest of the United States.

21 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF SANCTIONS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President is authorized, in
23 consultation as appropriate with the Secretary of State,
24 the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Director of Na-
25 tional Intelligence, to impose the sanctions described in

1 subsection (b) with respect to any foreign person that the
2 President determines—

3 (1) has engaged in, sponsored, or provided ma-
4 terial support for actions that—

5 (A) constitute diaspora voting obstruction;

6 or

7 (B) otherwise obstruct Lebanon’s par-
8 liamentary elections;

9 (2) has obstructed the ability of Lebanese citi-
10 zens abroad to vote according to Lebanese law;

11 (3) has acted on behalf of, or at the direction
12 of, any entity engaged in such activities; or

13 (4) has financially, materially, or operationally
14 assisted in any activity described in paragraphs (1)
15 through (3).

16 (b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.— The sanctions de-
17 scribed in this subsection are the following:

18 (1) ASSET BLOCKING.—Notwithstanding the re-
19 quirements of section 202 of the International
20 Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701),
21 the President may exercise of all powers granted to
22 the President by that Act to the extent necessary to
23 block and prohibit all transactions in all property
24 and interests in property of the foreign person if
25 such property and interests in property are in the

1 United States, come within the United States, or are
2 or come within the possession or control of a United
3 States person.

4 (2) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR
5 PAROLE.—

6 (A) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—A
7 foreign person that is an alien shall be—

8 (i) inadmissible to the United States;

9 (ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other
10 documentation to enter the United States;
11 and

12 (iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted
13 or paroled into the United States or to re-
14 ceive any other benefit under the Immigra-
15 tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et
16 seq.).

17 (B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—The for-
18 eign person shall be subject to the following:

19 (i) Revocation of any visa or other
20 entry documentation regardless of when
21 the visa or other entry documentation is or
22 was issued.

23 (ii) A revocation under clause (i) shall
24 take effect immediately and automatically
25 cancel any other valid visa or entry docu-

1 mentation that is in the foreign person's
2 possession.

3 (3) OTHER MEASURES.—Any other sanction
4 imposed using any of the powers granted to the
5 President under the International Emergency Eco-
6 nomic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.).

7 (c) PENALTY.—A person that violates, attempts to
8 violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of sub-
9 section (d)(2)(A) or any regulation, license, or order
10 issued under that subsection shall be subject to the pen-
11 alties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206
12 of the International Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C.
13 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an
14 unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

15 **SEC. 4. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**

16 (a) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after
17 date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall sub-
18 mit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee
19 on Financial Services, and the Committee on Appropria-
20 tions of the House of Representatives and the Committee
21 on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking,
22 Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate a report that
23 includes—

1 (1) an identification of each foreign person the
2 President determines has engaged in the actions de-
3 scribed in section 3(a);

4 (2) a description of efforts undermining dias-
5 pora voting among Lebanese citizens residing
6 abroad; and

7 (3) an assessment of foreign government or
8 proxy involvement, including Iran-backed entities,
9 with respect to the upcoming Lebanese parliamen-
10 tary elections in May 2026.

11 (b) SUBSEQUENT REPORTS.—Not later than 180
12 days after the date of the submission of the report re-
13 quired by subsection (a), and semi-annually thereafter, the
14 President shall submit to such committees an updated re-
15 port on—

16 (1) new individuals or entities identified as hav-
17 ing engaged in the actions described in section 3(a);

18 (2) any sanctions imposed in the preceding 180-
19 day period with respect to such newly identified indi-
20 viduals;

21 (3) progress or setbacks in Lebanon’s election
22 administration; and

23 (4) recommendations for strengthening election
24 integrity and diaspora participation.

1 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) The terms “admission”, “admitted”, and
4 “alien” have the meanings given such terms in sec-
5 tion 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8
6 U.S.C. 1101).

7 (2) The term “foreign person” means any indi-
8 vidual or entity that is not a United States person.

9 (3) The term “diaspora voting obstruction”
10 means any action that directly or indirectly—

11 (A) prevents, limits, delays, or manipulates
12 the ability of Lebanese citizens residing abroad
13 to vote in Lebanon’s parliamentary elections;

14 (B) undermines voter registration, ballot
15 distribution, ballot collection, or vote tabulation
16 for overseas voters;

17 (C) intimidates, threatens, coerces, or re-
18 taliates against diaspora voters; or

19 (D) otherwise interferes with election ad-
20 ministration in ways inconsistent with Lebanese
21 law.

22 (4) The term “obstruct”, with respect to Leb-
23 anon’s parliamentary elections, includes any action
24 that—

25 (A) undermines the timely conduct of par-
26 liamentary elections;

1 (B) corrupts or manipulates electoral insti-
2 tutions;

3 (C) engages in political violence or coercion
4 to influence outcomes; or

5 (D) materially supports such activities.

6 (5) The term “United States person” means—

7 (A) a citizen, national, or alien lawfully ad-
8 mitted for permanent residence in the United
9 States;

10 (B) an entity organized under the laws of
11 the United States or any jurisdiction within the
12 United States, including any foreign subsidi-
13 aries of such an entity; and

14 (C) any person located in the United
15 States.

16 **SEC. 6. TERMINATION.**

17 The authority to impose sanctions under this Act
18 shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date
19 of the enactment of this Act.

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