

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8289

To amend the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 to ensure expeditious processing of license applications, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 15, 2026

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

A BILL

To amend the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 to ensure expeditious processing of license applications, 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 “BIS Licensing Effi-
5 ciency Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Section 1756(a)(2) of the Export Control
9 Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4815(a)(2)) requires
10 the Secretary of Commerce to ensure that “licensing

1 decisions are made in an expeditious manner, with
2 transparency to applicants on the status of license
3 and other authorization processing and the reason
4 for denying any license or request for authoriza-
5 tion”.

6 (2) Section 1756(b) of the Export Control Re-
7 form Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4815(b)) expresses the
8 sense of Congress that “the Secretary should make
9 best efforts to ensure that an accurate, consistent,
10 and timely evaluation and processing of licenses or
11 other requests for authorization to export, reexport,
12 or in-country transfer items controlled under this
13 subchapter is generally accomplished within 30 days
14 from the date of such license request”.

15 (3) Executive Order 12981 (61 Fed. Reg.
16 54079; relating to administration of export con-
17 trols), which was codified in Export Control Reform
18 Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4801 et seq.), stipulates
19 that “all license applications submitted under the
20 Act and the Regulations or any renewal of, or suc-
21 cessor to, the Export Administration Act and the
22 Regulations, shall be resolved or referred to the
23 President no later than 90 calendar days”.

24 (4) The Export Administration Regulations
25 (parts 730–774 of title 15, Code of Federal Regula-

1 tions) stipulate that license applications should be
2 “resolved or referred to the President no later than
3 90 calendar days from the date of BIS’s registration
4 of the license application”.

5 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

6 It is the sense of Congress that—

7 (1) long license delays at the Bureau of Indus-
8 try and Security of the Department of Commerce
9 create uncertainty for United States exporters and
10 domestic manufacturers and can lead to the loss of
11 business to foreign companies, harming the United
12 States economy;

13 (2) efficient and predictable processing of ex-
14 port licenses is critical to the competitiveness of
15 United States technology companies and the stability
16 of global supply chains;

17 (3) United States technology and economic
18 leadership requires that the export controls system
19 functions efficiently and that license decisions are
20 made in an expeditious manner; and

21 (4) transparency regarding the efficiency and
22 timeliness of license reviews is necessary for effective
23 Congressional oversight of the export control system.

1 **SEC. 4. LICENSING TIMELINE; LICENSING REVIEWS.**

2 Section 1756 of the Export Control Reform Act of
3 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4815) is amended—

4 (1) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
5 section (g);

6 (2) in subsection (g), as so redesignated, in the
7 header, by striking “**REPORT**” and inserting “**AN-**
8 **NUAL REPORT ON END USE CHECKS**”; and

9 (3) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
10 lowing new subsections:

11 “(e) **LICENSING TIMELINE.**—

12 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days
13 after the date on which an application for a license
14 under this section is submitted, the Secretary should
15 make a licensing decision and notify the applicant of
16 such decision.

17 “(2) **DELAYED APPLICATION.**—If no licensing
18 decision is made not later than 120 days after the
19 date on which an application for a license under this
20 section was submitted, the Secretary shall notify the
21 applicant of the status of such application, the rea-
22 son such a decision has not been made, and request
23 any additional information necessary to make such
24 a decision.

25 “(f) **LICENSING REVIEWS.**—Licensing officers with
26 relevant subject matter expertise shall play an essential

1 role in conducting license reviews of all applications for
2 a license under this section.”.

3 **SEC. 5. QUARTERLY REPORT ON LICENSE PROCESSING.**

4 Section 1756 of the Export Control Reform Act of
5 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4815), as amended by section 1, is fur-
6 ther amended by inserting after subsection (g) the fol-
7 lowing new subsection:

8 “(h) QUARTERLY REPORT ON LICENSE PROC-
9 ESSING.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days
11 after the date of the enactment of this subsection,
12 and not less frequently than quarterly thereafter, the
13 Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congres-
14 sional committees a report detailing the processing
15 of license applications and other requests for author-
16 ization for the export, reexport, release, and in-coun-
17 try transfer of items controlled under this section.

18 “(2) ELEMENTS.—

19 “(A) INITIAL REPORT.—The first report
20 required by paragraph (1) shall include, with
21 respect to the preceding one-year period, the
22 following:

23 “(i) The total number of license appli-
24 cations submitted.

1 “(ii) On the date on which such re-
2 port is submitted, the total number of li-
3 cense applications in the below statuses on
4 the:

5 “(I) Received.

6 “(II) On hold (i.e., on hold with-
7 out action).

8 “(III) Referred to another de-
9 partment or agency.

10 “(IV) Signed off by a Licensing
11 Officer.

12 “(V) Countersigned.

13 “(VI) Validated.

14 “(iii) A breakdown of the total num-
15 ber of licenses approved, denied, and re-
16 turned without action.

17 “(iv) The average and median proc-
18 essing time for all license applications, in
19 calendar days from the date on which an
20 application is first submitted to the date
21 on which a decision on an application is
22 communicated to the applicant.

23 “(v) The average and median proc-
24 essing time of license applications broken
25 out by—

1 “(I) end-user country (for license
2 applications with multiple end-user
3 countries listed, such applications
4 shall be included in the calculation of
5 each country);

6 “(II) Export Control Classifica-
7 tion Number (‘ECCN’) (for license
8 applications with multiple ECCNs list-
9 ed, such applications shall be included
10 in the calculation of each ECCN); and

11 “(III) whether the license appli-
12 cation was for an export, re-export,
13 deemed export, or in-country transfer.

14 “(vi) The total number of license ap-
15 plications referred to—

16 “(I) the Department of State;

17 “(II) the Department of Defense;

18 or

19 “(III) the Department of Energy.

20 “(vii) The number of license applica-
21 tions that remained pending for not less
22 than 90 calendar days and a summary of
23 the reasons for such delays, including
24 interagency referral, pre-license check, or
25 administrative backlog.

1 “(B) SUBSEQUENT REPORTS.—Each sub-
 2 sequent report required by paragraph (1) shall
 3 include, with respect to the preceding quarter,
 4 the information described in subparagraph
 5 (A)(i) through (A)(vii).

6 “(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

7 “(A) the term ‘appropriate congressional
 8 committees’ means—

9 “(i) the Committee on Foreign Affairs
 10 of the House of Representatives; and

11 “(ii) the Committee on Banking,
 12 Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate;
 13 and”.

14 **SEC. 6. AUDIT AND REPORT BY COMPTROLLER GENERAL**
 15 **OF THE UNITED STATES.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
 17 date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
 18 of the United States shall commence an audit of the li-
 19 cense review process of the Bureau of Industry and Secu-
 20 rity of the Department of Commerce.

21 (b) CONTENTS.—The audit required under sub-
 22 section (a) should analyze whether licensing decisions
 23 under the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C.
 24 4801 et seq.) have been made in an expeditious manner
 25 in the preceding calendar year consistent with the proce-

1 dures and timelines mandated by such Act and identify
2 any bottlenecks that may impact the timing of licensing
3 decisions.

4 (c) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the en-
5 actment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United
6 States shall—

7 (1) submit a report with the findings from the
8 audit required by subsection (a) to the Committee
9 on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives
10 and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and
11 Urban Affairs of the Senate; and

12 (2) post the report on a publicly available
13 website of the United States Government Account-
14 ability Office.

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