

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8681

To impose sanctions with respect to any foreign person employing forced labor or child labor in the cobalt mining sector of a foreign country.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 7, 2026

Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania 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 impose sanctions with respect to any foreign person employing forced labor or child labor in the cobalt mining sector of a foreign country.

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 “Sanctioning Harmful
5 Illicit Exploitation of Labor and Dependents Act” or
6 “SHIELD Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

8 It is the sense of Congress that—

1 (1) forced labor and illegal exploitation of child
2 labor in some of the most dangerous work in the
3 world is a grievous human rights abuse;

4 (2) reports by journalists, the Department of
5 Labor, and nongovernmental organizations over-
6 whelmingly indicate that there is widespread forced
7 labor and child labor in the cobalt mining sectors of
8 foreign countries; and

9 (3) the United States should impose economic
10 costs on foreign entities that utilize forced labor and
11 child labor in the cobalt mining sectors of foreign
12 countries.

13 **SEC. 3. SANCTIONS.**

14 (a) **AUTHORIZATION.**—The President shall impose
15 the sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to
16 any foreign person employing forced labor or child labor
17 in the cobalt mining sector of a foreign country.

18 (b) **SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.**—The sanctions de-
19 scribed in this subsection are the following:

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

1 and interests in property of the foreign person if
2 such property and interests in property are in the
3 United States, come within the United States, or are
4 or come within the possession or control of a United
5 States person.

6 (2) ALIENS INADMISSIBLE FOR VISAS, ADMIS-
7 SION, OR PAROLE.—

8 (A) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—In
9 the case of an alien subject to sanctions pursu-
10 ant to subsection (a), the alien is—

11 (i) inadmissible to the United States;

12 (ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other
13 documentation to enter the United States;
14 and

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

20 (B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

21 (i) IN GENERAL.—The visa or other
22 entry documentation of an alien described
23 in subparagraph (A) shall be revoked, re-
24 gardless of when such visa or other entry
25 documentation was issued.

1 (ii) IMMEDIATE EFFECT.—A revoca-
2 tion under clause (i) shall—

3 (I) take effect in accordance with
4 section 221(i) of the Immigration and
5 Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i));
6 and

7 (II) cancel any other valid visa or
8 entry documentation that is in the
9 alien's possession.

10 (c) EXCEPTIONS.—

11 (1) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTER-
12 NATIONAL OBLIGATIONS.—Sanctions under sub-
13 section (b)(2) shall not apply with respect to the ad-
14 mission of an alien if admitting or paroling the alien
15 into the United States is necessary to permit the
16 United States to comply with the Agreement regard-
17 ing the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed
18 at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into
19 force November 21, 1947, between the United Na-
20 tions and the United States, or other applicable
21 international obligations.

22 (2) EXCEPTION RELATING TO THE PROVISION
23 OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.—Sanctions under
24 this section may not be imposed with respect to
25 transactions or the facilitation of transactions for—

1 (A) the sale of agricultural commodities,
2 food, medicine, or medical devices;

3 (B) the provision of humanitarian assist-
4 ance;

5 (C) financial transactions relating to hu-
6 manitarian assistance; or

7 (D) transporting goods or services that are
8 necessary to carry out operations relating to
9 humanitarian assistance.

10 (d) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

11 (1) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may ex-
12 ercise all authorities provided to the President under
13 sections 203 and 205 of the International Emer-
14 gency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and
15 1704) to carry out this section.

16 (2) PENALTIES.—The penalties provided for in
17 subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the Inter-
18 national Emergency Economic Powers Act (50
19 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to a person that violates,
20 attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a
21 violation of regulations promulgated to carry out
22 this section to the same extent that such penalties
23 apply to a person who commits an unlawful act de-
24 scribed in section 206(a) of that Act.

1 (e) WAIVER.—The President may waive the applica-
2 tion of sanctions imposed with respect to a foreign person
3 under this section if the President certifies to the appro-
4 priate congressional committees not later than 15 days be-
5 fore such waiver is to take effect that the waiver is impor-
6 tant to the national security interests of the United States.

7 (f) SUNSET.—The authority to impose sanctions
8 under this section shall terminate on the date that is seven
9 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

10 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

11 (1) the term “appropriate congressional com-
12 mittees” means the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
13 the House of Representatives and the Committee on
14 Foreign Relations of the Senate;

15 (2) the term “foreign person” means an indi-
16 vidual or entity that is not a United States person;
17 and

18 (3) the term “United States person” means—

19 (A) a United States citizen;

20 (B) a permanent resident alien of the
21 United States;

22 (C) an entity organized under the laws of
23 the United States or of any jurisdiction within
24 the United States, including a foreign branch of
25 such an entity; or

1 (D) a person in the United States.

○