

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4719

To require additional disclosures with respect to nominees to serve as chiefs of mission, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 9, 2026

Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. SCHIFF)
introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the
Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To require additional disclosures with respect to nominees
to serve as chiefs of mission, 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 “State Department In-
5 tegrity and Transparency Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING A PROFESSIONAL**
7 **AND NONPARTISAN DEPARTMENT OF STATE.**

8 It is the sense of Congress that—

9 (1) detailed knowledge and requisite experience
10 formulating and executing United States foreign pol-

1 iciency, including having a working understanding of
2 Department of State operations and procedures, is
3 vital for Chiefs of Mission, Assistant Secretaries of
4 State, and other senior officials at the Department
5 of State—

6 (A) to successfully advance United States
7 national security; and

8 (B) for managing the Federal workforce in
9 order to effectively assert and expand United
10 States competitiveness and leadership abroad;

11 (2) the People’s Republic of China and other
12 competitor nations are rapidly expanding their global
13 diplomatic presences; and

14 (3) it is imperative that the Department of
15 State is appropriately staffed by empowered, non-
16 partisan foreign policy professionals and thoroughly
17 qualified and vetted political appointees, who work
18 together to protect United States citizens and ad-
19 vance United States foreign policy interests.

20 **SEC. 3. ENHANCING THE PREPAREDNESS OF ASSISTANT**
21 **SECRETARIES OF STATE AND CHIEFS OF MIS-**
22 **SION.**

23 (a) **HIRING REQUIREMENT.**—Section 1(c)(1) of the
24 State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22
25 U.S.C. 2651a(c)(1)) is amended—

1 (1) by inserting “, United States Code” after
2 title 5; and

3 (2) by adding at the end the following: “Not
4 fewer than 75 percent of the Assistant Secretaries in
5 the Department of State shall have served in the
6 Senior Foreign Service or the Senior Executive Serv-
7 ice.”.

8 (b) DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.—Section
9 304(a)(4) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C.
10 3944(a)(4)) is amended—

11 (1) by inserting “or as an assistant secretary”
12 after “chief of mission”; and

13 (2) by adding at the end the following: “Each
14 report on the demonstrated competence of a nominee
15 shall explain the source and extent of such nomi-
16 nee’s knowledge of the principal language or dialect
17 of the country, region, or institution, as applicable,
18 in which the nominee has been nominated to serve
19 as chief of mission or assistant secretary and the
20 manner and extent to which such nominee meets the
21 criteria described in paragraph (1), particularly with
22 respect to the source and extent of such individual’s
23 knowledge and understanding of the history, culture,
24 economics, politics, and interests of the people of
25 such country, region, or institution and any relevant

1 business interests such nominee has in such country,
 2 region, or institution.”.

3 **SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL DISCLOSURES REQUIRED WITH RE-**
 4 **SPECT TO NOMINEES.**

5 Section 304(b)(3) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980
 6 (22 U.S.C. 3944(b)(3)) is amended—

7 (1) by striking “Each” and inserting the fol-
 8 lowing: “(A) In this paragraph—

9 “(i) the term ‘bundled contribution’ has the
 10 meaning given such term in section 304(i)(8)(A) of
 11 the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52
 12 U.S.C. 30104(i)(8)(A));

13 “(ii) the term ‘contribution’ has the meaning
 14 given such term in section 301(8) of the Federal
 15 Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C.
 16 30101(8)); and

17 “(iii) the term ‘immediate family’ means—

18 “(I) the spouse of the nominee;

19 “(II) any child, parent, grandparent,
 20 brother, or sister of the nominee; and

21 “(III) the spouse of any of the individuals
 22 described in subclause (II).

23 “(B) Each”;

24 (2) in subparagraph (B), as redesignated, by
 25 striking “The report” and inserting the following:

1 “(C) The report shall include the disclosure of all
 2 bundled contributions facilitated by the nominee during
 3 the period described in subparagraph (B), in accordance
 4 with section 304(i) of the Federal Election Campaign Act
 5 of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30104(i)), and”;

6 (3) by striking “The chairman” and inserting
 7 the following:

8 “(D) The chairman”; and

9 (4) in subparagraph (D), as redesignated—

10 (A) by striking “As used in this para-
 11 graph” and all that follows and inserting the
 12 following: “The Secretary of State shall publish
 13 each such report and each ‘Certificate of Com-
 14 petency’ issued pursuant to subsection (a)(5) on
 15 a publicly available website of the Department
 16 of State.”.

17 **SEC. 5. CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE FOR-**
 18 **IGN SERVICE ACT OF 1980.**

19 Section 304(a) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980,
 20 as amended by section 3(b), is further amended by adding
 21 at the end the following:

22 “(5) The President shall certify to the Committee on
 23 Foreign Relations of the Senate that—

1 “(A) any individual nominated to be a chief of
 2 mission meets the qualifications required under
 3 paragraph (1); and

4 “(B) any contributions made by any such indi-
 5 vidual or family member, whether or not included in
 6 the report described in paragraph (4), played no role
 7 in such nomination.”.

8 **SEC. 6. LIMITATIONS ON OVERSEAS PLACEMENT OF SPE-**
 9 **CIAL APPOINTMENT POSITIONS THAT DO**
 10 **NOT EXERCISE SIGNIFICANT AUTHORITY.**

11 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
 12 gress that all officials of the United States Government
 13 offered to receive diplomatic accreditation from a foreign
 14 nation should be thoroughly vetted and reviewed for quali-
 15 fication before—

16 (1) being authorized to represent the United
 17 States Government overseas; or

18 (2) receiving taxpayer-funded salaries, allow-
 19 ances, and employment benefits in connection with
 20 such a posting.

21 (b) LIMITATIONS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1(j)(2) of the State
 23 Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22
 24 U.S.C. 2651a(j)) is amended—

1 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A),
 2 (B), and (C) as clauses (i), (ii), and (iii), re-
 3 spectively, and moving such clauses, as redesign-
 4 nated, 2 ems to the right;

5 (B) by striking “The President”; and in-
 6 serting the following:

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The President”; and

8 (C) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(B) LIMITATIONS.—All special appoint-
 10 ments made pursuant to subparagraph (A), and
 11 all positions described in schedule B or schedule
 12 C of subpart C of part 213 of title 5, Code of
 13 Federal Regulations, to a United States diplo-
 14 matic mission may not exceed 90 days. An indi-
 15 vidual may not be appointed to more than 1 po-
 16 sition described in this paragraph during a sin-
 17 gle calendar year.”.

18 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made
 19 by this subsection shall take effect on January 1,
 20 2029.

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