

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 229

To lift the trade embargo on Cuba, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 6, 1999

Mr. RANGEL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Commerce, and Government Reform, 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 lift the trade embargo on Cuba, 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 “Free Trade With Cuba
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds that—

8 (1) with the end of the Cold War and the col-
9 lapse of the Soviet Union, Cuba is no longer a threat
10 to the United States or the Western Hemisphere;

1 (2) the continuation of the embargo on trade
 2 between the United States and Cuba that was de-
 3 clared in February of 1962 is counterproductive,
 4 adding to the hardships of the Cuban people while
 5 making the United States the scapegoat for the fail-
 6 ures of the communist system;

7 (3) in the former Soviet Union, the Eastern
 8 bloc countries, China, and Vietnam, the United
 9 States is using economic, cultural, academic, and
 10 scientific engagement to support its policy of pro-
 11 moting democratic and human rights reforms; and

12 (4) the United States can best support demo-
 13 cratic change in Cuba by promoting trade and com-
 14 merce, travel, communications, and cultural, aca-
 15 demic, and scientific exchanges.

16 **SEC. 3. REMOVAL OF PROVISIONS RESTRICTING TRADE**
 17 **AND OTHER RELATIONS WITH CUBA.**

18 (a) **AUTHORITY FOR EMBARGO AND SUGAR**
 19 **QUOTA.**—Section 620(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of
 20 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2370(a)) is repealed.

21 (b) **TRADING WITH THE ENEMY ACT.**—The authori-
 22 ties conferred upon the President by section 5(b) of the
 23 Trading With the Enemy Act, which were being exercised
 24 with respect to Cuba on July 1, 1977, as a result of a
 25 national emergency declared by the President before that

1 date, and are being exercised on the day before the effective date of this Act, may not be exercised on or after
2 such effective date with respect to Cuba. Any regulations
3 in effect on the day before such effective date pursuant
4 to the exercise of such authorities, shall cease to be effective on such date.

7 (c) EXERCISE OF AUTHORITIES UNDER OTHER PROVISIONS OF LAW.—

9 (1) REMOVAL OF PROHIBITIONS.—Any prohibition on exports to Cuba that is in effect on the day
10 before the effective date of this Act under the Export Administration Act of 1979 shall cease to be effective on such effective date.

14 (2) AUTHORITY FOR NEW RESTRICTIONS.—The President may, on and after the effective date of this
15 Act—

17 (A) impose export controls with respect to
18 Cuba under section 5, 6(j), 6(l), or 6(m) of the
19 Export Administration Act of 1979, and

20 (B) exercise the authorities he has under
21 the International Emergency Economic Powers
22 Act with respect to Cuba pursuant to a declaration of national emergency required by that Act
23 that is made on account of an unusual and extraordinary threat, that did not exist before the
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1 enactment of this Act, to the national security,
2 foreign policy, or economy of the United States.

3 (d) CUBAN DEMOCRACY ACT.—The Cuban Democ-
4 racy Act of 1992 (22 U.S.C. 6001 and following) is re-
5 pealed.

6 (e) REPEAL OF CUBAN LIBERTY AND DEMOCRATIC
7 SOLIDARITY (LIBERTAD) ACT OF 1996.—

8 (1) REPEAL.—The Cuban Liberty and Demo-
9 cratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 is re-
10 pealed.

11 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—(A) Section
12 498A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22
13 U.S.C. 2295a) is amended—

14 (i) in subsection (a)(11) by striking “and
15 intelligence facilities, including the military and
16 intelligence facilities at Lourdes and Cienfue-
17 gos,” and inserting “facilities,”;

18 (ii) in subsection (b)—

19 (I) in paragraph (4) by adding “and”
20 after the semicolon;

21 (II) by striking paragraph (5); and

22 (III) by redesignating paragraph (6)
23 as paragraph (5); and

24 (iii) by striking subsection (d).

1 (B) Section 498B(k) of the Foreign Assistance
2 Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2295b(k)) is amended by
3 striking paragraphs (3) and (4).

4 (C) Section 1611 of title 28, United States
5 Code, is amended by striking subsection (c).

6 (D) Sections 514 and 515 of the International
7 Claims Settlement Act of 1949 (22 U.S.C. 1643l
8 and 1643m) are repealed.

9 (f) TERMINATION OF DENIAL OF FOREIGN TAX
10 CREDIT WITH RESPECT TO CUBA.—Subparagraph (A) of
11 section 901(j)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986
12 (relating to denial of foreign tax credit, etc., with respect
13 to certain foreign countries) is amended by adding at the
14 end thereof the following new flush sentence:

15 “Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, this
16 subsection shall not apply to Cuba after the
17 date which is 60 days after the date of the en-
18 actment of this sentence.”.

19 (g) SUGAR QUOTA PROHIBITION UNDER FOOD SE-
20 CURITY ACT OF 1985.—Section 902(c) of the Food Secu-
21 rity Act of 1985 is repealed.

22 **SEC. 4. TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AND FACILI-**
23 **TIES.**

24 Any common carrier within the meaning of section
25 3 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 153)

1 is authorized to install, maintain, and repair telecommuni-
2 cations equipment and facilities in Cuba, and otherwise
3 provide telecommunications services between the United
4 States and Cuba. The authority of this section includes
5 the authority to upgrade facilities and equipment.

6 **SEC. 5. TRAVEL.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Travel to and from Cuba by indi-
8 viduals who are citizens or residents of the United States,
9 and any transactions ordinarily incident to such travel,
10 may not be regulated or prohibited if such travel would
11 be lawful in the United States.

12 (b) TRANSACTIONS INCIDENT TO TRAVEL.—Any
13 transactions ordinarily incident to travel which may not
14 be regulated or prohibited under subsection (a) include,
15 but are not limited to—

16 (1) transactions ordinarily incident to travel or
17 maintenance in Cuba; and

18 (2) normal banking transactions involving for-
19 eign currency drafts, traveler's checks, or other ne-
20 gotiable instruments incident to such travel.

21 **SEC. 6. DIRECT MAIL DELIVERY TO CUBA.**

22 The United States Postal Service shall take such ac-
23 tions as are necessary to provide direct mail service to and
24 from Cuba, including, in the absence of common carrier

1 service between the 2 countries, the use of charter provid-
2 ers.

3 **SEC. 7. NEGOTIATIONS WITH CUBA.**

4 (a) NEGOTIATIONS.—The President should take all
5 necessary steps to conduct negotiations with the Govern-
6 ment of Cuba—

7 (1) for the purpose of settling claims of nation-
8 als of the United States against the Government of
9 Cuba for the taking of property by such government;
10 and

11 (2) for the purpose of securing the protection of
12 internationally recognized human rights.

13 (b) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the terms
14 “national of the United States” and “property” have the
15 meanings given those terms in section 502 of the Inter-
16 national Claims Settlement Act of 1949 (22 U.S.C.
17 1643a).

18 **SEC. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

19 This Act shall take effect 60 days after the date of
20 the enactment of this Act.

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