

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 798

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 28, 2001

Mr. RANGEL (for himself, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, and Mr. RAMSTAD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, the Judiciary, Financial Services, Government Reform, and Agriculture, 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—

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

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

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

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

19 **SEC. 3. REMOVAL OF PROVISIONS RESTRICTING TRADE**
 20 **AND OTHER RELATIONS WITH CUBA.**

21 (a) **AUTHORITY FOR EMBARGO AND SUGAR**
 22 **QUOTA.**—Section 620(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of
 23 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2370(a)) is repealed.

24 (b) **TRADING WITH THE ENEMY ACT.**—The authori-
 25 ties conferred upon the President by section 5(b) of the

1 Trading With the Enemy Act, which were being exercised
2 with respect to Cuba on July 1, 1977, as a result of a
3 national emergency declared by the President before that
4 date, and are being exercised on the day before the effective date of this Act, may not be exercised on or after
5 such effective date with respect to Cuba. Any regulations
6 in effect on the day before such effective date pursuant
7 to the exercise of such authorities, shall cease to be effective on such date.

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

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

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

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

23 (B) exercise the authorities he has under
24 the International Emergency Economic Powers
25 Act with respect to Cuba pursuant to a declara-

1 tion of national emergency required by that Act
2 that is made on account of an unusual and ex-
3 traordinary threat, that did not exist before the
4 enactment of this Act, to the national security,
5 foreign policy, or economy of the United States.

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

9 (e) REPEAL OF CUBAN LIBERTY AND DEMOCRATIC
10 SOLIDARITY (LIBERTAD) ACT OF 1996.—

11 (1) REPEAL.—The Cuban Liberty and Demo-
12 cratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 is re-
13 pealed.

14 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—(A) Section
15 498A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22
16 U.S.C. 2295a) is amended—

17 (i) in subsection (a)(11) by striking “and
18 intelligence facilities, including the military and
19 intelligence facilities at Lourdes and Cien-
20 fuegos,” and inserting “facilities,”;

21 (ii) in subsection (b)—

22 (I) in paragraph (4) by adding “and”
23 after the semicolon;

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

1 (III) by redesignating paragraph (6)
2 as paragraph (5); and
3 (iii) by striking subsection (d).

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

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

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

12 (f) TRADE SANCTIONS REFORM AND EXPORT EN-
13 HANCEMENT ACT OF 2000.—The Trade Sanctions Re-
14 form and Export Enhancement Act of 2000 (title IX of
15 H.R. 5426, as enacted into law by section 1(a) of Public
16 Law 106–387, and as contained in the appendix of such
17 Public Law) is amended—

18 (1) in section 906(a)(1)—

19 (A) by striking “to Cuba or”; and

20 (B) by inserting “(other than Cuba)” after
21 “to the government of a country”;

22 (2) in section 908—

23 (A) by striking subsection (b);

24 (B) in subsection (a)—

1 (i) by striking “PROHIBITION” and
 2 all that follows through “(1) IN GEN-
 3 ERAL.—” and inserting “IN GENERAL.—”;

4 (ii) by striking “for exports to Cuba
 5 or”;

6 (iii) by striking paragraph (2); and

7 (iv) by redesignating paragraph (3) as
 8 subsection (b) (and conforming the margin
 9 accordingly); and

10 (C) in subsection (b) (as redesignated), by
 11 striking “paragraph (1)” and inserting “sub-
 12 section (a)”;

13 (3) by striking section 909;

14 (4) by striking section 910; and

15 (5) by redesignating section 911 as section 909.

16 (g) REPEAL OF PROHIBITION ON TRANSACTIONS OR
 17 PAYMENTS WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN UNITED STATES
 18 INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.—Section 211 of the Depart-
 19 ment of Commerce and Related Agencies Appropriations
 20 Act, 1999 (as contained in section 101(b) of division A
 21 of Public Law 105–277; 112 Stat. 2681–88) is repealed.

22 (h) TERMINATION OF DENIAL OF FOREIGN TAX
 23 CREDIT WITH RESPECT TO CUBA.—Subparagraph (A) of
 24 section 901(j)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986
 25 (relating to denial of foreign tax credit, etc., with respect

1 to certain foreign countries) is amended by adding at the
2 end thereof the following new flush sentence:

3 “Notwithstanding the preceding sentence, this
4 subsection shall not apply to Cuba after the
5 date which is 60 days after the date of the en-
6 actment of this sentence.”.

7 (i) SUGAR QUOTA PROHIBITION UNDER FOOD SECU-
8 RITY ACT OF 1985.—Section 902(c) of the Food Security
9 Act of 1985 is repealed.

10 **SEC. 4. TELECOMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT AND FACILI-**
11 **TIES.**

12 Any common carrier within the meaning of section
13 3 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 153)
14 is authorized to install, maintain, and repair telecommuni-
15 cations equipment and facilities in Cuba, and otherwise
16 provide telecommunications services between the United
17 States and Cuba. The authority of this section includes
18 the authority to upgrade facilities and equipment.

19 **SEC. 5. TRAVEL.**

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

1 (b) TRANSACTIONS INCIDENT TO TRAVEL.—Any
2 transactions ordinarily incident to travel which may not
3 be regulated or prohibited under subsection (a) include,
4 but are not limited to—

5 (1) transactions ordinarily incident to travel or
6 maintenance in Cuba; and

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

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

11 The United States Postal Service shall take such ac-
12 tions as are necessary to provide direct mail service to and
13 from Cuba, including, in the absence of common carrier
14 service between the 2 countries, the use of charter pro-
15 viders.

16 **SEC. 7. NEGOTIATIONS WITH CUBA.**

17 (a) NEGOTIATIONS.—The President should take all
18 necessary steps to conduct negotiations with the Govern-
19 ment of Cuba—

20 (1) for the purpose of settling claims of nation-
21 als of the United States against the Government of
22 Cuba for the taking of property by such government;
23 and

24 (2) for the purpose of securing the protection of
25 internationally recognized human rights.

1 (b) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this section, the terms
2 “national of the United States” and “property” have the
3 meanings given those terms in section 502 of the Inter-
4 national Claims Settlement Act of 1949 (22 U.S.C.
5 1643a).

6 **SEC. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

7 This Act shall take effect 60 days after the date of
8 the enactment of this Act.

○