

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1141

To strengthen sanctions against the Government of Syria, to establish a program to support a transition to a democratically elected government in Syria and the restoration of sovereignty and democratic rule in Lebanon, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 8, 2005

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN (for herself, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. MACK, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Ms. BERKLEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, Ways and Means, 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 strengthen sanctions against the Government of Syria, to establish a program to support a transition to a democratically elected government in Syria and the restoration of sovereignty and democratic rule in Lebanon, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**
- 4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
- 5 “Lebanon and Syria Liberation Act”.

1 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of
2 this Act is as follows:

See. 1. Short title; table of contents.
See. 2. Definitions.

**TITLE I—STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SANCTIONS
AGAINST SYRIA**

Sec. 101. Declarations of policy.
Sec. 102. Codification of existing sanctions.
Sec. 103. Sanctions against certain persons.
Sec. 104. Sanctions against certain foreign countries.
Sec. 105. Diplomatic efforts.
Sec. 106. Report on assistance to, and commerce with, Syria.

**TITLE II—ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT DEMOCRACY IN SYRIA AND
SOVEREIGNTY AND DEMOCRACY IN LEBANON**

See. 201. Declarations of policy.
See. 202. Assistance to support a transition to democracy in Syria and restoration of sovereign democratic governance in Lebanon.

3 SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

4 In this Act:

5 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
6 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
7 mittees” means—

8 (A) the Committee on International Rela-
9 tions and the Committee on Appropriations of
10 the House of Representatives; and

11 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations
12 and the Committee on Appropriations of the
13 Senate.

14 (2) PERSON.—The term “person” means any
15 United States or foreign individual, partnership, cor-
16 poration, or other form of association, or any of
17 their successor entities, parents or subsidiaries.

9 (B) sales and assistance under the Arms
10 Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.);

11 (C) financing by the Commodity Credit
12 Corporation for export sales of agricultural
13 commodities; and

14 (D) financing under the Export-Import
15 Bank Act of 1945 (12 U.S.C. 635 et seq.).

16 **TITLE I—STRENGTHENING OF**
17 **INTERNATIONAL SANCTIONS**
18 **AGAINST SYRIA**

19 SEC. 101. DECLARATIONS OF POLICY.

20 Congress makes the following declarations of policy:

21 (1) The actions of the Government of the Syrian
22 Arab Republic, including its support for ter-
23 rorism, its development of long-range missiles and
24 weapons of mass destruction programs and capabili-
25 ties, its continued occupation of the Lebanese Re-

1 public in violation of its international obligations, its
2 support for, and facilitation of, all terrorist activities
3 inside of Iraq, and its massive, systematic, and ex-
4 traordinary violations of human rights of both the
5 Syrian and Lebanese people, are a threat to the na-
6 tional security interests of the United States and
7 international peace.

8 (2) The policy of the United States shall be to
9 deny Syria the ability to carry out the following:

10 (A) To finance, provide safe-haven, or oth-
11 erwise support terrorist organizations.

12 (B) To develop biological, chemical, or nu-
13 clear weapons and long-range ballistic missiles.

14 (C) To continue to occupy and otherwise
15 interfere in the affairs of the Government of
16 Lebanon in contravention of United Nations
17 Security Council Resolutions 425 (1978), 426
18 (1978), 520 (1982), and 1559 (2004), and
19 other pertinent obligations.

20 (D) To continue to oppress the people of
21 Syria.

22 (3) The President should advocate for, and
23 should instruct the United States Permanent Rep-
24 resentative to the United Nations to propose and
25 seek within the United Nations Security Council, a

1 mandatory international embargo against the Government of Syria, pursuant to Article 41 of the Charter of the United Nations.

4 (4) Any effort by a country that is a recipient of United States foreign assistance to facilitate, directly or indirectly, the development of Syria's nuclear, biological, or chemical weapons capabilities, long-range ballistic missile development programs, or to help make operational any nuclear facility in Syria will have a detrimental impact on United States assistance to such country.

12 **SEC. 102. CODIFICATION OF EXISTING SANCTIONS.**

13 United States sanctions, controls, and regulations relating to Syria and persons who are determined to be facilitating the Government of Syria, as in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act, shall remain in effect until the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that—

19 (1) a government exists in Syria that—

20 (A) has ceased any and all support for terrorism;

22 (B) has permanently dismantled Syria's biological, chemical, or nuclear weapons programs and has committed to combat the proliferation 24 of such weapons;

1 (C) has withdrawn from Lebanon and re-
2 spects the boundaries and sovereignty of all
3 neighbouring countries; and

4 (D) upholds and defends human rights and
5 civil liberties; and

6 (2) sovereignty has been restored to Lebanon
7 and there exists a freely-elected, internationally rec-
8 ognized democratic government in Lebanon.

9 SEC. 103. SANCTIONS AGAINST CERTAIN PERSONS.

10 (a) PROHIBITION.—If any person knowingly trans-
11 fers or retransfers goods or technology so as to contribute
12 to the efforts by Syria to acquire or develop destabilizing
13 numbers and types of advanced conventional weapons, or
14 to acquire, develop, produce, or stockpile biological, chem-
15 ical, or nuclear weapons and long-range ballistic missiles,
16 then the sanctions described in subsection (b) shall be im-
17 posed.

18 (b) SANCTIONS.—The sanctions to be imposed pursu-
19 ant to subsection (a) are as follows:

7 SEC. 104. SANCTIONS AGAINST CERTAIN FOREIGN COUN-
8 TRIES.

9 (a) PROHIBITION.—If the President determines that
10 the government of any foreign country knowingly transfers
11 or retransfers goods or technology, or provides assistance,
12 so as to contribute to the efforts by Syria to acquire or
13 develop destabilizing numbers and types of advanced con-
14 ventional weapons, or to acquire, develop, produce, or
15 stockpile biological, chemical, or nuclear weapons and
16 long-range ballistic missiles, then two or more of the sanc-
17 tions described in subsection (b), and the sanctions de-
18 scribed in subsection (c), shall be imposed.

19 (b) SANCTIONS.—The sanctions referred to in sub-
20 section (a) are as follows:

1 ing for export to the sanctioned country of any com-
2 ponent part.

3 (6) UNITED STATES MUNITIONS LIST.—No
4 item on the United States Munitions List (estab-
5 lished pursuant to section 38 of the Arms Export
6 Control Act) may be exported to the sanctioned
7 country.

8 (c) SUSPENSION OF MILITARY AND DUAL-USE
9 TECHNICAL EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS.—The United
10 States shall suspend compliance with its obligations under
11 any technical exchange agreement involving military and
12 dual-use technology between the United States and the
13 sanctioned country that does not directly contribute to the
14 security of the United States, and no military or dual-use
15 technology may be exported from the United States to the
16 sanctioned country pursuant to that agreement during
17 that period.

18 **SEC. 105. DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS.**

19 (a) BILATERAL EFFORTS.—It is the sense of Con-
20 gress that the Secretary of State should ensure that
21 United States diplomatic personnel abroad understand
22 and, in their contacts with foreign officials, are commu-
23 nicating the reasons for United States policy and sanc-
24 tions against the Government of Syria, and are urging for-

1 1 sign governments to cooperate more effectively with the
2 Government of the United States.

3 (b) UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM.—The President shall
4 direct the United States Permanent Representative to the
5 United Nations, United Nations organizations and enti-
6 ties, and United Nations affiliated agencies and bodies,
7 to continue to use the voice and vote of the United States
8 to oppose Syria's membership and candidacy for leader-
9 ship posts in such institutions, and engage in diplomatic
10 efforts to secure multilateral support for such efforts.

11 (c) UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON HUMAN
12 RIGHTS.—The President shall take the necessary steps to
13 secure support for a resolution at the United Nations
14 Commission on Human Rights holding the the Govern-
15 ment of Syria accountable for its systematic violations of
16 human rights of Syrian and Lebanese citizens and calling
17 for the appointment of a United Nations Special
18 Rapporteur to investigate these human rights violations.

19 (d) INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.—
20 The President shall instruct the United States Executive
21 Director at each international financial institution (as de-
22 fined in section 1701(c)(2) of the International Financial
23 Institutions Act) to use the voice and vote of the United
24 States to oppose any loan or other assistance to Syria and
25 to oppose Syria's membership in the institution.

1 (e) INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY.—The
2 President shall instruct the United States Permanent
3 Representative to the International Atomic Energy Agen-
4 cy (IAEA) to seek the adoption of a resolution calling on
5 Syria to declare all nuclear related facilities, immediately
6 and unconditionally suspend any activity which could be
7 used to develop nuclear weapons capability, and provide
8 full access to IAEA inspectors to its nuclear-related facili-
9 ties.

10 (f) UNITED STATES AND REGIONAL CONTACT
11 GROUPS.—The President shall seek to establish contact
12 groups with relevant countries in the Middle East to pro-
13 vide forums in which United States officials who are re-
14 sponsible for counter-proliferation efforts are able to meet,
15 at least twice each year, with their counterpart from such
16 countries to—

17 (1) discuss the global threats presented by Ira-
18 nian nuclear proliferation and sponsorship of inter-
19 national terrorism; and
20 (2) develop strategies to effectively address
21 these threats.

22 **SEC. 106. REPORT ON ASSISTANCE TO, AND COMMERCE**
23 **WITH, SYRIA.**

24 (a) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date
25 of the enactment of this Act, and on an annual basis there-

1 after, the President shall transmit to the appropriate con-
2 gressional committees a report on assistance to, and com-
3 merce with, Syria by other foreign countries during the
4 preceding 12-month period.

5 (b) CONTENTS.—Each report required by subsection
6 (a) shall, for the period covered by the report, contain the
7 following information, to the extent such information is
8 available:

9 (1) A description of all bilateral assistance pro-
10 vided to Syria by other foreign countries, including
11 humanitarian assistance.

12 (2) A description of Syria's commerce with for-
13 eign countries, including an identification of Syria's
14 trading partners and the extent of such trade.

15 (3) A description of the joint ventures com-
16 pleted, or under consideration, by foreign nationals
17 and business firms involving facilities in Syria, in-
18 cluding an identification of the location of the facili-
19 ties involved and a description of the terms of agree-
20 ment of the joint ventures and the names of the par-
21 ties that are involved.

22 (4) A determination of the amount of debt of
23 the Government of Syria that is owed to each for-
24 eign country, including—

5 (B) the amount of debt owed to the foreign
6 country that has been exchanged, forgiven, or
7 reduced in return for a grant by the Syrian
8 Government of an equity interest in a property,
9 investment, or operation of the Syrian Govern-
10 ment or of a Syrian national.

22 (A) a description of the military supplies,
23 equipment, or other material sold, bartered, or
24 exchanged between Syria and such countries;

5 (C) the terms or conditions of any such
6 agreement.

7 (c) FORM.—The report submitted under subsection
8 (a) shall be in unclassified form but may include a classi-
9 fied annex.

10 **TITLE II—ASSISTANCE TO SUP-**
11 **PORT DEMOCRACY IN SYRIA**
12 **AND SOVEREIGNTY AND DE-**
13 **MOCRACY IN LEBANON**

14 SEC. 201. DECLARATIONS OF POLICY.

15 (a) SYRIA.—It shall be the policy of the United States
16 to support independent human rights and pro-democracy
17 forces in Syria to promote the emergence of a democratic
18 government that—

19 (1) will denounce and combat terrorism;

20 (2) will dismantle its biological, chemical, and
21 nuclear weapons programs and commit to combat
22 the proliferation of such weapons;

23 (3) will respect the boundaries and sovereignty
24 of its neighbors and live in peace and security with
25 all the countries in the region; and

3 (b) LEBANON.—It shall be the policy of the United
4 States to initiate efforts to restore Lebanese sovereignty,
5 including the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of
6 all Syrian personnel from Lebanon, and to support Leba-
7 nese civil society and pro-democracy forces in restoring a
8 freely-elected, internationally recognized democratic gov-
9 ernment in Lebanon.

10 SEC. 202. ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT A TRANSITION TO DE-
11 MOCRACY IN SYRIA AND RESTORATION OF
12 SOVEREIGN DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE IN
13 LEBANON.

14 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—Notwithstanding any other
15 provision of law, the President is authorized to provide as-
16 sistance and other support for individuals and independent
17 nongovernmental organizations to support a transition to
18 a freely-elected, internationally recognized democratic gov-
19 ernment in Syria and the restoration of sovereign, demo-
20 cratic rule in Lebanon.

21 (b) ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED.—Assistance provided
22 under subsection (a) shall, to the maximum extent prac-
23 ticable, be used to carry out the following activities:

24 (1) Democracy-building and civil society efforts
25 in Syria and Lebanon, including the provision of as-

1 sistance to organizations certified by the President
2 to be independent democratic organizations, victims
3 of political repression and their families, and pris-
4 oners of conscience and their families.

5 (2) Radio and television broadcasting to Syria
6 and Lebanon to support democracy-building and
7 civil society efforts in Syria and Lebanon.

8 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
9 are authorized to be appropriated to the President to carry
10 out this section such sums as may be necessary for fiscal
11 year 2006 and each subsequent fiscal year.

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