

109TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2697

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 8, 2006

Referred to the Committee on International Relations

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## AN ACT

To establish the position of the United States Ambassador  
for ASEAN Affairs.

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 “United States Amba-  
5       sador for ASEAN Affairs Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress makes the following findings:

3 (1) The Association of Southeast Asian Nations  
4 (referred to in this Act as “ASEAN”) was estab-  
5 lished in 1967, with an initial membership of Indo-  
6 nesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and  
7 Thailand.

8 (2) ASEAN is committed to accelerating eco-  
9 nomic growth, social progress, cultural development  
10 and regional peace and stability.

11 (3) The membership of ASEAN has expanded  
12 to 10 countries since its establishment in 1967.

13 (4) The United States seeks to maintain and  
14 further develop a constructive and cordial relation-  
15 ship with ASEAN.

16 (5) The countries comprising ASEAN—

17 (A) constitute the 3rd largest export mar-  
18 ket for United States products;

19 (B) have received nearly \$90,000,000,000  
20 in direct investment from United States  
21 sources; and

22 (C) are developing an integrated free trade  
23 area.

24 (6) Trade between the United States and the  
25 countries comprising ASEAN totals approximately  
26 \$130,000,000,000.

1           (7) ASEAN continues to contribute to regional  
2           stability in East Asia and has partnered with the  
3           United States to combat global terror.

4           (8) In 2006, approximately 38,000 students  
5           from the countries comprising ASEAN were study-  
6           ing in the United States.

7           (9) The countries comprising ASEAN share a  
8           common concern with the United States regarding—

9                   (A) the spread of avian influenza and other  
10           diseases; and

11                   (B) environmental issues, such as the pres-  
12           ervation of biodiversity and the prevention of il-  
13           legal logging.

14           (10) It is in the long-term interest of the  
15           United States to maintain and expand a relationship  
16           with ASEAN.

17           (11) The United States does not have an Am-  
18           bassador to ASEAN, which limits the ability of the  
19           United States and ASEAN to respond quickly and  
20           appropriately to events of mutual interest.

21   **SEC. 3. UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR FOR ASEAN.**

22           (a) APPOINTMENT.—There is established in the De-  
23           partment of State the position of United States Amba-  
24           sador for ASEAN Affairs, who shall be appointed by the  
25           President, subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

1       (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
2   gress that a Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East  
3   Asia and the Pacific should be designated as the Amba-  
4   sador for ASEAN Affairs.

Passed the Senate September 7 (legislative day, Sep-  
tember 6), 2006.

Attest:

EMILY J. REYNOLDS,  
*Secretary.*