

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 526

To sunset the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force after three years.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 12, 2015

Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. MURPHY) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To sunset the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force
after three years.

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 “Sunset of the 2001
5 Authorization for Use of Military Force Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) On September 11, 2001, the United States
9 and its citizens were victims of the worst terrorist
10 attacks in world history.

1 (2) The September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks
2 were planned, financed, and executed by al Qaeda,
3 a terrorist organization led by Osama bin Laden.

4 (3) Al Qaeda was based in Afghanistan
5 throughout the period leading up to the attacks, and
6 the three previous attacks against United States tar-
7 gets, the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, the
8 1998 East Africa bombings, and the 2000 attack on
9 the USS Cole, were planned by al Qaeda central.

10 (4) From 1996 to 2001, the Taliban govern-
11 ment of Afghanistan knowingly harbored al Qaeda,
12 and was complicit in its plots against the United
13 States, and al Qaeda, in turn, supported the
14 Taliban, including sponsoring and training the elite
15 Arab 55th Brigade of the Taliban Army.

16 (5) Following the September 11, 2001, attacks,
17 Congress passed the Authorization for Use of Mili-
18 tary Force (Public Law 107–40; 50 U.S.C. 1541
19 note) to provide the President with requisite author-
20 ization to use “force against those nations, organiza-
21 tions, or persons he determines planned, authorized,
22 committed, or aided the terrorist attacks that oc-
23 curred on September 11, 2001, or harbored such or-
24 ganizations or persons, in order to prevent any fu-
25 ture acts of international terrorism against the

1 United States by such nations, organizations or per-
2 sons”.

3 (6) Congress never intended and did not au-
4 thorize a perpetual war.

5 (7) With the withdrawal of United States com-
6 bat troops from Afghanistan and the transition to
7 Afghan national security forces at the end of 2014,
8 the Authorization for Use of Military Force, which
9 was focused on the September 11th attacks and
10 those directly responsible, will have largely served its
11 purpose.

12 (8) The homeland and the American people face
13 new threats from individuals, entities, and organiza-
14 tions that may affiliate with al Qaeda, or share its
15 ideology and its determination to attack Americans,
16 but which may not be connected to the September
17 11, 2001, attacks or those who carried them out to
18 a degree sufficient to be covered by the Authoriza-
19 tion for Use of Military Force.

20 (9) Even after the expiration of the Authoriza-
21 tion for Use of Military Force, there is likely to re-
22 main the need to defend against specific networks of
23 violent extremists, including al Qaeda and its affili-
24 ates, that threaten the United States, and the Presi-
25 dent must work with the legislative branch to secure

1 whatever new authorities may be required to meet
2 the threat and comply with the Constitution and the
3 War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1541 et seq.).

4 **SEC. 3. SUNSET OF 2001 AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF MILI-**
5 **TARY FORCE.**

6 The Authorization for Use of Military Force (Public
7 Law 107–40; 50 U.S.C. 1541 note) shall terminate on the
8 date that is three years after the date of the enactment
9 of this Act, unless reauthorized.

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