

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 598

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 23, 2019

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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## AN ACT

To support the independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Georgia, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE AND TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
3 “Georgia Support Act”.

4 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for  
5 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title and table of contents.

Sec. 2. United States policy.

TITLE I—ASSISTANCE PROVISIONS

Sec. 101. United States-Georgia security assistance.

Sec. 102. United States cybersecurity cooperation with Georgia.

Sec. 103. Enhanced assistance to combat Russian disinformation and propa-  
ganda.

Sec. 104. Sense of Congress on free trade agreement with Georgia.

TITLE II—SANCTIONS PROVISIONS

Sec. 201. Imposition of sanctions on persons complicit in or responsible for se-  
rious human rights abuses, including right to life in Georgian  
regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia occu-  
pied by Russia.

TITLE III—DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS

Sec. 301. Determination of budgetary effects.

6 **SEC. 2. UNITED STATES POLICY.**

7 It is the policy of the United States to—

8 (1) support continued development of demo-  
9 cratic values in Georgia, including free and fair elec-  
10 tions, public sector transparency and accountability,  
11 the rule of law, and anticorruption efforts;

12 (2) support Georgia’s sovereignty, independ-  
13 ence, and territorial integrity within its internation-  
14 ally recognized borders;

15 (3) support the right of the people of Georgia  
16 to freely determine their future and make inde-

1       pendent and sovereign choices on foreign and secu-  
2       rity policy, including regarding their country's rela-  
3       tionship with other nations and international organi-  
4       zations, without interference, intimidation, or coer-  
5       cion by other countries;

6               (4) support Georgia's Euro-Atlantic and Euro-  
7       pean integration;

8               (5) not recognize territorial changes effected by  
9       force, including the illegal invasions and occupations  
10      of Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali Re-  
11      gion/South Ossetia by the Russian Federation;

12              (6) condemn ongoing detentions, kidnappings,  
13      and other human rights violations committed in the  
14      Georgian regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali Re-  
15      gion/South Ossetia forcibly occupied by the Russian  
16      Federation, including the recent killings of Georgian  
17      citizens Archil Tatumashvili, Giga Otkhozoria, and  
18      Davit Basharuli; and

19              (7) support peaceful conflict resolution in Geor-  
20      gia, including by urging the Russian Federation to  
21      fully implement the European Union-mediated  
22      ceasefire agreement of August 12, 2008, and sup-  
23      porting the establishment of international security  
24      mechanisms in the Georgian regions of Abkhazia  
25      and Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia and the safe

1 and dignified return of internally displaced persons  
2 (IDPs) and refugees, all of which are important for  
3 lasting peace and security on the ground.

## 4 **TITLE I—ASSISTANCE** 5 **PROVISIONS**

### 6 **SEC. 101. UNITED STATES-GEORGIA SECURITY ASSISTANCE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

8 (1) In fiscal year 2018, the United States pro-  
9 vided Georgia with \$2,200,000 in assistance under  
10 chapter 5 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act  
11 of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2347 et seq.; relating to inter-  
12 national military education and training) and  
13 \$35,000,000 in assistance under section 23 of the  
14 Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2763; relating  
15 to the Foreign Military Financing Program).

16 (2) Georgia has been a longstanding NATO-as-  
17 pirant country.

18 (3) Georgia has contributed substantially to  
19 Euro-Atlantic peace and security through participa-  
20 tion in the International Security Assistance Force  
21 (ISAF) and Resolute Support Missions in Afghani-  
22 stan as one of the largest troop contributors.

23 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
24 gress that United States assistance to Georgia under  
25 chapter 5 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961

1 and section 23 of the Arms Export Control Act should  
2 be increased.

3 (c) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It shall be the policy  
4 of the United States, in consultation with Georgia, to en-  
5 hance Georgia’s deterrence, resilience, and self-defense, in-  
6 cluding through appropriate assistance to improve the ca-  
7 pabilities of Georgia’s armed forces.

8 (d) REVIEW OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO GEOR-  
9 GIA.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
11 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
12 retary of State, in consultation with the heads of  
13 other appropriate United States departments and  
14 agencies, shall submit to the Committee on Foreign  
15 Affairs of the House of Representatives and the  
16 Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a re-  
17 port reviewing United States security assistance to  
18 Georgia.

19 (2) COMPONENTS.—The report required under  
20 paragraph (1) shall include the following:

21 (A) A detailed review of all United States  
22 security assistance to Georgia from fiscal year  
23 2008 to the date of the submission of such re-  
24 port.

1           (B) An assessment of threats to Georgian  
2 independence, sovereignty, and territorial integ-  
3 rity.

4           (C) An assessment of Georgia’s capabilities  
5 to defend itself, including a 5-year strategy to  
6 enhance Georgia’s deterrence, resilience, and  
7 self-defense capabilities.

8           (3) FORM.—The report required under para-  
9 graph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form but  
10 may contain a classified annex.

11 **SEC. 102. UNITED STATES CYBERSECURITY COOPERATION**  
12 **WITH GEORGIA.**

13           (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
14 gress that the Secretary of State should take the following  
15 actions, commensurate with United States interests, to as-  
16 sist Georgia to improve its cybersecurity:

17           (1) Provide Georgia such support as may be  
18 necessary to secure government computer networks  
19 from malicious cyber intrusions, particularly such  
20 networks that defend the critical infrastructure of  
21 Georgia.

22           (2) Provide Georgia support in reducing reli-  
23 ance on Russian information and communications  
24 technology.

1           (3) Assist Georgia to build its capacity, expand  
2           cybersecurity information sharing, and cooperate on  
3           international cyberspace efforts.

4           (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
5           of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall  
6           submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House  
7           of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Rela-  
8           tions of the Senate a report on United States cybersecu-  
9           rity cooperation with Georgia. Such report shall also in-  
10          clude information relating to the following:

11           (1) United States efforts to strengthen Geor-  
12          gia’s ability to prevent, mitigate, and respond to  
13          cyber incidents, including through training, edu-  
14          cation, technical assistance, capacity building, and  
15          cybersecurity risk management strategies.

16           (2) The potential for new areas of collaboration  
17          and mutual assistance between the United States  
18          and Georgia to address shared cyber challenges, in-  
19          cluding cybercrime, critical infrastructure protection,  
20          and resilience against automated, distributed  
21          threats.

22           (3) NATO’s efforts to help Georgia develop  
23          technical capabilities to counter cyber threats.

1 **SEC. 103. ENHANCED ASSISTANCE TO COMBAT RUSSIAN**  
2 **DISINFORMATION AND PROPAGANDA.**

3 (a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It shall be the policy  
4 of the United States to enhance the capabilities of Georgia  
5 to combat Russian disinformation and propaganda cam-  
6 paigns intended to undermine the sovereignty and demo-  
7 cratic institutions of Georgia, while promoting the freedom  
8 of the press.

9 (b) REQUIRED STRATEGY.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
11 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
12 retary of State, in consultation with the heads of  
13 other appropriate United States departments and  
14 agencies, shall submit to the Committee on Foreign  
15 Affairs of the House of Representatives and the  
16 Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a re-  
17 port outlining a strategy to implement the policy de-  
18 scribed in subsection (a).

19 (2) COMPONENTS.—The report required under  
20 paragraph (1) shall include the following:

21 (A) A detailed assessment of Russian  
22 disinformation and propaganda efforts across  
23 all media platforms targeting Georgia.

24 (B) An assessment of Georgia’s capabilities  
25 to deter and combat such Russian efforts and  
26 to support the freedom of the press.



1 (C) A detailed strategy coordinated across  
2 all relevant United States departments and  
3 agencies to enhance Georgia's capabilities to  
4 deter and combat such Russian efforts.

5 (3) FORM.—The report required by paragraph  
6 (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may  
7 contain a classified annex.

8 **SEC. 104. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON FREE TRADE AGREE-**  
9 **MENT WITH GEORGIA.**

10 It is the sense of Congress that the United States  
11 Trade Representative should make progress toward nego-  
12 tiations with Georgia to enter a bilateral free trade agree-  
13 ment with Georgia.

14 **TITLE II—SANCTIONS**  
15 **PROVISIONS**

16 **SEC. 201. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS ON PERSONS**  
17 **COMPLICIT IN OR RESPONSIBLE FOR SERI-**  
18 **OUS HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES, INCLUDING**  
19 **RIGHT TO LIFE IN GEORGIAN REGIONS OF**  
20 **ABKHAZIA AND TSKHINVALI REGION/SOUTH**  
21 **OSSETIA OCCUPIED BY RUSSIA.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall impose the  
23 sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to a for-  
24 eign person if the President determines, based on credible

1 information, that such foreign person, on or after the date  
2 of the enactment of this Act—

3 (1) is responsible for, complicit in, or respon-  
4 sible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing  
5 the commission of any serious abuse of human  
6 rights in Georgian regions of Abkhazia and  
7 Tskhinvali Region/South Ossetia forcibly occupied by  
8 the Russian Federation;

9 (2) is knowingly materially assisting, spon-  
10 soring, or providing significant financial, material, or  
11 technological support for, or goods or services to, a  
12 foreign person described in paragraph (1); or

13 (3) is owned or controlled by a foreign person,  
14 or is acting on behalf of a foreign person, described  
15 in paragraph (1).

16 (b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions to be  
17 imposed with respect to a foreign person described in sub-  
18 section (a) are the following:

19 (1) ASSET BLOCKING.—The President shall ex-  
20 ercise all of the powers granted by the International  
21 Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701  
22 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit  
23 all transactions in all property and interests in prop-  
24 erty of the person if such property and interests in  
25 property are in the United States, come within the

1 United States, or are or come within the possession  
2 or control of a United States person.

3 (2) EXCLUSION FROM THE UNITED STATES  
4 AND REVOCATION OF VISA OR OTHER DOCUMENTA-  
5 TION.—

6 (A) INADMISSIBILITY TO THE UNITED  
7 STATES.—In the case of a person described in  
8 subsection (a) who is an individual, such person  
9 shall be—

10 (i) inadmissible to the United States;

11 (ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other  
12 documentation to enter the United States;  
13 and

14 (iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted  
15 or paroled into the United States or to re-  
16 ceive any other benefit under the Immigra-  
17 tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et  
18 seq.).

19 (B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—A person  
20 described in subsection (a) who is an individual  
21 shall be subject to the revocation of any visa or  
22 other entry documentation issued to such per-  
23 son regardless of when the visa or other entry  
24 documentation is or was issued. A revocation  
25 under this subparagraph shall take effect imme-

1 diately and shall automatically cancel any other  
2 valid visa or entry documentation that is in the  
3 person's possession.

4 (C) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH UNITED  
5 NATIONS HEADQUARTERS AGREEMENT AND  
6 LAW ENFORCEMENT OBJECTIVES.—Sanctions  
7 under subparagraph (A) shall not apply to an  
8 individual if admitting such individual into the  
9 United States would further important law en-  
10 forcement objectives or is necessary to permit  
11 the United States to comply with the Agree-  
12 ment regarding the Headquarters of the United  
13 Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26,  
14 1947, and entered into force November 21,  
15 1947, between the United Nations and the  
16 United States, or other applicable international  
17 obligations of the United States.

18 (c) WAIVER.—The President may waive the applica-  
19 tion of sanctions under subsection (b) with respect to a  
20 person if the President determines that such a waiver is  
21 important to the national interests of the United States.

22 (d) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

23 (1) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may ex-  
24 ercise all authorities provided to the President under  
25 sections 203 and 205 of the International Emer-

1 agency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and  
2 1704) to carry out subsection (b)(1).

3 (2) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, at-  
4 tempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a  
5 violation of subsection (b)(1) or any regulation, li-  
6 cense, or order issued to carry out such subsection  
7 shall be subject to the penalties specified in sub-  
8 sections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the Inter-  
9 national Emergency Economic Powers Act (50  
10 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that  
11 commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a)  
12 of such section.

13 (e) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF  
14 GOODS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—The authorities and require-  
16 ments to impose sanctions authorized under this Act  
17 shall not include the authority or requirement to im-  
18 pose sanctions on the importation of goods.

19 (2) GOOD DEFINED.—In this subsection, the  
20 term “good” means any article, natural or man-  
21 made substance, material, supply or manufactured  
22 product, including inspection and test equipment,  
23 and excluding technical data.

24 (f) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days  
25 after the date of the enactment of this Act and at least

1 once every 180 days thereafter for a period not to exceed  
2 2 years, the President, in consultation with the Secretary  
3 of the Treasury, shall transmit to Congress a detailed re-  
4 port with respect to persons that have been determined  
5 to have engaged in activities described in subsection (a).

6 **TITLE III—DETERMINATION OF**  
7 **BUDGETARY EFFECTS**

8 **SEC. 301. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

9 The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of  
10 complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010,  
11 shall be determined by reference to the latest statement  
12 titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this  
13 Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record  
14 by the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the  
15 House of Representatives, provided that such statement  
16 has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

Passed the House of Representatives October 22,  
2019.

Attest: CHERYL L. JOHNSON,  
*Clerk.*