

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8706

To amend the Act of March 4, 1913 to establish the Bureau of International Labor Affairs within the Department of Labor, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 30, 2020

Mr. DESAULNIER (for himself and Mr. WALBERG) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, and Ways and Means, 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 amend the Act of March 4, 1913 to establish the Bureau of International Labor Affairs within the Department of Labor, 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 “Bureau of Inter-
5 national Labor Affairs Authorization Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT.**

2 The Act of March 4, 1913 (37 Stat. 736, chapter
3 141; 29 U.S.C. 551 et seq.), is amended by adding at the
4 end the following:

5 **“SEC. 12. BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL LABOR AFFAIRS.**

6 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BUREAU OF INTER-
7 NATIONAL LABOR AFFAIRS.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established within
9 the Department of Labor a Bureau of International
10 Labor Affairs (referred to in this section as the ‘Bu-
11 reau’). The Bureau shall include offices to carry out
12 functions related to—

13 “(A) trade and labor affairs;

14 “(B) child labor, forced labor, and human
15 trafficking;

16 “(C) international relations and economic
17 affairs; and

18 “(D) other functions and activities as des-
19 ignated by the Secretary of Labor.

20 “(2) DEPUTY UNDERSECRETARY.—The Sec-
21 retary of Labor shall appoint a Deputy Undersecre-
22 tary for International Affairs to head the Bureau.
23 The Deputy Undersecretary for International Affairs
24 shall continue to carry out all duties assigned to the
25 Deputy Undersecretary for International Affairs as
26 of the day before the date of enactment of the Bu-

reau of International Labor Affairs Authorization Act of 2020 and other duties and functions, as appropriate, to fulfill the mission of the Bureau.

“(3) FUNCTIONS.—The functions of the Bureau on and after the date of enactment of the Bureau of International Labor Affairs Authorization Act of 2020 shall include the responsibilities and functions of the Bureau on the day before the date of enactment of the Bureau of International Labor Affairs Authorization Act of 2020, and include all of its personnel, assets, authorities, liabilities, and other resources, including representational funds, required to support such functions.

“(4) MISSION.—The mission of the Bureau shall be to—

“(A) promote a fair global playing field for workers and businesses in the United States and around the world by enforcing trade commitments, strengthening international labor standards, and combating international child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking;

“(B) assist trading partners, through technical assistance and capacity building, in improving working conditions, combating child labor, forced labor, and human trafficking, rais-

1 ing living standards, and protecting the ability
2 of workers to exercise their internationally rec-
3 ognized labor rights to promote a fair global
4 playing field for workers and businesses in the
5 United States and trade partner countries;

6 “(C) support negotiations, conduct moni-
7 toring, and administer, and engage in enforce-
8 ment of, labor commitments in trade agree-
9 ments and preference programs;

10 “(D) hire and designate labor attaches to
11 serve at United States diplomatic and consular
12 posts to assess working conditions, advance
13 worker rights, address the workplace exploi-
14 tation of children and other vulnerable popu-
15 lations, and serve as authoritative experts on
16 labor policies and practices;

17 “(E) carry out representational activities,
18 research, and other functions as designated by
19 the Secretary of Labor; and

20 “(F) implement the duties and responsibil-
21 ities assigned to the Department of Labor
22 under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of
23 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), the Trade and
24 Development Act of 2000 (19 U.S.C. 3701 et
25 seq.), the United States-Mexico-Canada Agree-

1 ment Implementation Act (Public Law 116–
2 113), and other Acts, and Executive orders, as
3 appropriate.

4 “(b) GRANTS, CONTRACTS, AND COOPERATIVE
5 AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary of Labor may utilize funds
6 made available to the Bureau to administer or operate
7 international labor activities and provide bilateral and
8 multilateral technical assistance by or through contracts,
9 grants, cooperative agreements, and other arrangements
10 to carry out the mission and functions set forth in this
11 section.

12 “(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall
13 submit to Congress on an annual basis a report on the
14 activities of the Bureau during the previous year, includ-
15 ing—

16 “(1) activities to prevent forced and child labor;

17 “(2) support for trade agreement monitoring
18 and enforcement activities;

19 “(3) the location and activities of labor at-
20 taches; and

21 “(4) the use of funds for contracts, grants, co-
22 operative agreements and other funding arrange-
23 ments.”.

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