

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5244

To provide for the authorities of the Secretary of State.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 10, 2025

Mr. MILLS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To provide for the authorities of the Secretary of State.

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. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this Act—

5 (1) except as otherwise provided, the term “ap-
6 appropriate congressional committees” means—

7 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
8 the House of Representatives; and

9 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of
10 the Senate;

11 (2) the term “Department” means the Depart-
12 ment of State;

1 (3) the term “Deputy Secretary” means the
2 Deputy Secretary of State; and

3 (4) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary
4 of State.

5 **TITLE I—GENERAL** 6 **ORGANIZATION**

7 **Subtitle A—Office of the Secretary**

8 **SEC. 101. OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY.**

9 The Secretary is authorized to establish in the Office
10 of the Secretary of State of the Department positions to
11 support the Secretary’s situational awareness and deci-
12 sion-making in the management of the Department. Such
13 positions may include the following:

14 (1) Chief of Staff.

15 (2) Counselor.

16 (3) Executive Secretariat.

17 **Subtitle B—United Nations**

18 **SEC. 111. UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED** 19 **NATIONS.**

20 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President, by and with
22 the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint
23 a representative of the United States to the United
24 Nations who shall have the rank and status of Am-
25 bassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and

1 shall hold office at the pleasure of the President.
2 Such representative shall represent the United
3 States in the Security Council of the United Nations
4 and shall perform such other functions in connection
5 with the participation of the United States in the
6 United Nations as the President may, from time to
7 time, direct.

8 (2) REPORTING AND COLLABORATION.—The
9 United States Ambassador to the United Nations
10 shall report to and collaborate closely with the Sec-
11 retary of State through direction by the President to
12 implement a coherent and unified strategic policy of
13 the United States in the United Nations system.

14 (b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—In addition to the respon-
15 sibilities described in subsection (a), the United States
16 Ambassador to the United Nations shall maintain contin-
17 uous observation and coordination of all matters per-
18 taining to United States participation in the United Na-
19 tions system in the conduct of foreign policy, including—

20 (1) to identify, report, and hold accountable
21 Member States that engage in malign influence op-
22 erations and United Nations employees who act in-
23 consistently with the principals of impartiality en-
24 shrined in the United Nations Charter;

1 (2) to oppose the election as the head of any
2 United Nations entity of nationals from Member
3 States that engage in malign influence operations;

4 (3) to support Taiwan’s membership or mean-
5 ingful participation, as appropriate, in relevant
6 United Nations entities in which Taiwan has ex-
7 pressed an interest in participating; and

8 (4) to support Presidential actions in response
9 to malign influence operations.

10 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

11 (1) the term “employee” means a staff member
12 who is compensated in any form in the general serv-
13 ices, professional staff, or senior management of the
14 United Nations system, including a consultant, a
15 contractor, or a subcontractor;

16 (2) the term “malign influence operations”
17 means a coordinated, integrated, and synchronized
18 application by a Member State of national diplo-
19 matic, informational, military, economic, or other ca-
20 pabilities, to foster attitudes, behaviors, or decisions
21 by a United Nations entity, or within the United
22 Nations system, that furthers the national interests
23 and objectives of a Member State, in a manner in-
24 consistent with the United Nations Charter;

1 (3) the term “Member State” means a country
2 that is a Member State of the United Nations; and

3 (4) the term “United Nations entity” means—

4 (A) the United Nations General Assembly;

5 (B) the United Nations Economic and So-
6 cial Council;

7 (C) the United Nations Security Council;

8 (D) the United Nations Secretariat;

9 (E) an organization related to any of the
10 entities referred to in subparagraphs (A)
11 through (D);

12 (F) a specialized agency; or

13 (G) a subsidiary body.

14 **SEC. 112. UNITED STATES MISSION TO THE UNITED NA-**
15 **TIONS.**

16 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is authorized to be a
17 United States Mission to the United Nations which shall
18 be constituted by the United States Ambassador to the
19 United Nations, and representatives to the principal or-
20 gans and agencies of the United Nations appointed or des-
21 ignated and included within the United States Mission to
22 the United Nations as designated pursuant to subsection
23 (b), together with their deputies, staffs, and offices.

24 (b) **REPRESENTATIVES.**—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The President, by and with
2 the advice and consent of the Senate, shall appoint
3 additional persons with appropriate titles, rank, and
4 status to represent the United States in the prin-
5 cipal organs of the United Nations and in such or-
6 gans, commissions, or other bodies as may be cre-
7 ated by the United Nations with respect to nuclear
8 energy or disarmament (control and limitation of ar-
9 mament).

10 (2) TERMS AND OVERSIGHT.—Such persons—

11 (A) shall serve at the pleasure of the Presi-
12 dent; and

13 (B) are subject to the direction of the Rep-
14 resentative of the United States to the United
15 Nations.

16 (c) COORDINATION.—The United States Mission to
17 the United Nations shall coordinate closely with the Bu-
18 reau of International Organization Affairs of the Depart-
19 ment and any bureau of the Department that provides
20 funding for United Nations agencies, programs, or organi-
21 zations at the Department and across the United States
22 Government to implement a coherent and unified strategic
23 policy of the United States in the United Nations system.

24 (d) ACTION BY REPRESENTATIVES VOTING IN AC-
25 CORDANCE WITH PRESIDENTIAL INSTRUCTIONS.—The

1 representatives when representing the United States in the
2 respective organs and agencies of the United Nations,
3 shall, at all times, act in accordance with the instructions
4 of the President transmitted by the Secretary of State un-
5 less other means of transmission is directed by the Presi-
6 dent, and such representatives shall, in accordance with
7 such instructions, cast any and all votes under the Charter
8 of the United Nations.

9 (e) CHIEF OF MISSION.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The United States Amba-
11 sador to the United Nations shall be the Chief of
12 Mission in charge of the United States Mission to
13 the United Nations.

14 (2) COORDINATION.—The Chief of Mission
15 shall coordinate at the seat of the United Nations
16 the activities of the Mission in carrying out the in-
17 structions of the President transmitted either by the
18 Secretary or by other means of transmission as di-
19 rected by the President.

20 (3) RESPONSIBILITIES.—In addition to the re-
21 sponsibilities described in paragraph (2), the Chief
22 of Mission—

23 (A) shall be responsible for the administra-
24 tion of the Mission, including personnel, budget,

1 obligation and expenditure of funds, and the
2 central administrative services; and

3 (B) shall discharge responsibilities under
4 this subsection in accordance with such rules
5 and regulations as the Secretary may from time
6 to time prescribe.

7 **Subtitle C—Bureaus, Offices, and** 8 **Other Entities**

9 **SEC. 121. OFFICES AND BUREAUS OF THE SECRETARY AND** 10 **DEPUTY SECRETARY.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be within
12 the Department the following bureaus and offices to sup-
13 port the Secretary's and Deputy Secretary's situational
14 awareness and decision-making in the management of the
15 Department:

16 (1) A Bureau of Legislative Affairs, in accord-
17 ance with section 122.

18 (2) A Bureau of Intelligence and Research, in
19 accordance with section 123.

20 (3) An Office of Policy Planning, in accordance
21 with section 124.

22 (4) An Office of the Legal Adviser, in accord-
23 ance with section 125.

24 (5) An Office of Protocol, in accordance with
25 section 126.

1 (2) impartial coordination between the Depart-
2 ment and Congress on all legislative related matters;

3 (3) providing guidance and information to other
4 Department bureaus and offices on legislative mat-
5 ters;

6 (4) managing correspondence and reports to
7 Congress, as appropriate, except for—

8 (A) treaties and executive agreements,
9 which the Office of the Legal Adviser transmits;

10 (B) anti-deficiency notifications, which the
11 Bureau of Comptroller and Financial Services
12 transmits;

13 (C) reprogramming notifications for the
14 State Operations Budget account, which the
15 Under Secretary for Management transmits;
16 and

17 (D) other such communications as directed
18 by law, Executive order, or the Secretary; and

19 (5) supporting Congress in its official foreign
20 travel and the expenditure of congressional travel
21 funds.

22 (c) BUREAU OF LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS.—

23 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall es-
24 tablish a Bureau of Legislative Affairs, which shall
25 perform such functions related to the coordination of

1 legislative activity, congressional engagements, and
2 the development of the Department's positions on
3 proposed legislation, as the Secretary may prescribe.

4 (2) HEAD.—The Assistant Secretary for Legis-
5 lative Affairs shall be the head of the Bureau of
6 Legislative Affairs.

7 (3) DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR HOUSE
8 AFFAIRS.—The Deputy Assistant Secretary for
9 House Affairs shall be appointed by the President of
10 the United States.

11 (4) DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SEN-
12 ATE AFFAIRS.—The Deputy Assistant Secretary for
13 Senate Affairs shall be appointed by the President
14 of the United States.

15 **SEC. 123. ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR INTELLIGENCE AND**
16 **RESEARCH.**

17 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is authorized to be in
18 the Department an Assistant Secretary for Intelligence
19 and Research who shall be responsible—

20 (1) to the Secretary and the Deputy Secretary
21 for matters pertaining to the intelligence and re-
22 search functions of the Department; and

23 (2) for such other related duties as the Sec-
24 retary may from time to time designate.

1 (b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—In addition to the respon-
2 sibilities described in subsection (a), the Assistant Sec-
3 retary for Intelligence and Research shall maintain contin-
4 uous observation and coordination of all matters per-
5 taining to analysis and dissemination of intelligence prod-
6 ucts in the conduct of foreign policy, including, as appro-
7 priate—

8 (1) overseeing the Department’s coordination
9 with the intelligence community (as such term is de-
10 fined in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of
11 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)));

12 (2) advocating for the Department’s collection
13 requirements; and

14 (3) ensuing effective collaboration and informa-
15 tion sharing in the Department.

16 (c) BUREAU OF INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH.—

17 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall es-
18 tablish a Bureau of Intelligence and Research, which
19 shall perform such functions related to overseeing
20 the collection, analysis, and dissemination of intel-
21 ligence and research to inform and implement
22 United States foreign policy, as the Secretary may
23 prescribe.

1 (2) HEAD.—The Assistant Secretary for Intel-
2 ligence and Research shall be the head of the Bu-
3 reau of Intelligence and Research.

4 **SEC. 124. DIRECTOR FOR POLICY PLANNING.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is authorized to be in
6 the Department a Director of Policy Planning responsible
7 to the Deputy Secretary and Secretary of State for mat-
8 ters pertaining to independent policy analysis, guidance,
9 and counsel, and such other related duties as the Sec-
10 retary may from time to time designate.

11 (b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—In addition to the respon-
12 sibilities described in subsection (a), the Director of Policy
13 Planning shall maintain continuous observation and co-
14 ordination of all matters pertaining to the policymaking
15 process of the Department, including, as appropriate—

16 (1) supporting the Secretary’s priorities, align-
17 ing them with engagements, policy, and planning
18 across the Department and the interagency;

19 (2) leading and contributing to long-term plan-
20 ning initiatives and functional policy reviews, agen-
21 da-setting, and coordination across the Department,
22 the interagency, and with allies and partners
23 through bilateral and multilateral policy planning
24 dialogues; and

1 (3) promoting the Secretary’s strategic nar-
2 rative on related policy and diplomatic priorities in
3 the Department and across the interagency.

4 (c) OFFICE OF POLICY PLANNING.—

5 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall es-
6 tablish an Office of Policy Planning, which shall per-
7 form such functions related to the shaping, devel-
8 oping, and articulating the Secretary’s strategic pol-
9 icy and diplomatic priorities across the Department,
10 as the Secretary may prescribe.

11 (2) HEAD.—The Director of Policy Planning
12 shall be the head of the Office of Policy Planning.

13 **SEC. 125. LEGAL ADVISER.**

14 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is authorized to be in
15 the Department a Legal Adviser who shall be respon-
16 sible—

17 (1) to the Secretary and the Deputy Secretary
18 for providing advice on all legal issues with respect
19 to the mission of the Department, including but not
20 limited to formulating international law; and

21 (2) for such other related duties as the Sec-
22 retary may from time to time designate.

23 (b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—In addition to the respon-
24 sibilities described in subsection (a), the Legal Adviser
25 shall maintain continuous observation and coordination of

1 all matters pertaining to legal implications of the Depart-
2 ment's intentions and activities in the conduct of foreign
3 policy, including, as appropriate—

4 (1) participating in international negotiations
5 and represent the United States in international
6 conferences related to legal issues, and serve as a
7 member of delegation and legal advisor to treaty im-
8 plementation commissions;

9 (2) assisting the Department regarding legal
10 matters at interagency meetings, congressional hear-
11 ings, and meetings of private organizations; and

12 (3) provide consultation on behalf of the De-
13 partment for domestic litigation that involves the
14 Department or its interests, coordinating with other
15 Departments when necessary, and assisting the De-
16 partment of Justice relating to relevant litigation.

17 (c) OFFICE OF LEGAL ADVISER.—

18 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall es-
19 tablish the Office of the Legal Adviser, which shall
20 perform such functions related to representing and
21 advising the Secretary and Department-wide mis-
22 sions on all legal policy issues in connection with
23 United States foreign policy and the work of the De-
24 partment, as the Secretary may prescribe.

1 (2) HEAD.—The Legal Adviser shall be the
2 head of the Office of the Legal Adviser.

3 **SEC. 126. UNITED STATES CHIEF OF PROTOCOL.**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is authorized to be in
5 the Department a United States Chief of Protocol who
6 shall be responsible—

7 (1) to the Secretary and Deputy Secretary for
8 matters pertaining to diplomatic etiquette; and

9 (2) for providing guidance to the President, the
10 Vice President, the Secretary, and other high-rank-
11 ing government officials on matters of national and
12 international protocol.

13 (b) OFFICE OF PROTOCOL.—

14 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall es-
15 tablish an Office of Protocol, which shall perform
16 functions related to ensuring the Department’s ef-
17 fective management of diplomatic and consular pro-
18 tocols, including the planning and coordination of of-
19 ficial ceremonies, diplomatic visits, related diplo-
20 matic engagements, and providing guidance on mat-
21 ters of diplomatic etiquette, as the Secretary may
22 prescribe.

23 (2) HEAD.—The United States Chief of Pro-
24 tocol shall be the head of the Office of Protocol.

1 **SEC. 127. SPOKESPERSON.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is authorized to be a
3 Spokesperson of the Department of State who shall be re-
4 sponsible—

5 (1) to the Secretary for matters pertaining to
6 domestic communications; and

7 (2) for such other related duties as the Sec-
8 retary may from time to time designate.

9 (b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—In addition to the respon-
10 sibilities described in subsection (a), the Spokesperson
11 shall maintain continuous observation and coordination of
12 all matters pertaining to domestic communications in the
13 conduct of foreign policy, including, as appropriate—

14 (1) directing all Department communication in-
15 tended for domestic consumption;

16 (2) communicating to the domestic press as the
17 official domestic audience spokesperson of the De-
18 partment;

19 (3) advising the Secretary on all aspects of the
20 Department's conduct of domestic press relations;
21 and

22 (4) supporting the Secretary in preparation for
23 and during domestic public media engagements.

24 (c) OFFICE OF THE SPOKESPERSON.—

25 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall es-
26 tablish an Office of the Spokesperson which shall

1 perform such functions related to domestic commu-
2 nications as the Secretary may prescribe.

3 (2) HEAD.—The Spokesperson of the Depart-
4 ment of State shall be the head of the Office of the
5 Spokesperson.

6 **SEC. 128. RED TEAM CAPABILITY.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
8 Red Team Capability to inform the Department’s crisis
9 response and contingency planning.

10 (b) MEETINGS.—The individuals involved in the Red
11 Team Capability required by subsection (a) should be con-
12 vened at the direction of—

13 (1) for general meetings, the Department’s Pol-
14 icy Planning Staff and the Department’s Crisis
15 Management and Strategy Unit; and

16 (2) for specific reviews as needed, the Secretary
17 or other Department principals.

18 (c) REPORTING.—Not later than 21 days after the
19 individuals involved in the Red Team Capability estab-
20 lished pursuant to subsection (a) are convened in accord-
21 ance with subsection (b), such individuals shall submit to
22 the Department’s Policy Planning Staff a report that con-
23 tains the findings relating to the exercise of such Red
24 Team Capability.

1 **Subtitle D—Authorization of**
2 **Appropriations**

3 **SEC. 131. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to re-
5 ceive all the funds appropriated to the Department and
6 allocate such funds to fulfill missions and responsibilities
7 for fiscal year 2026 and 2027.

8 (b) ALLOCATIONS.—Of the funds authorized to be
9 appropriated to the Secretary under subsection (a)—

10 (1) the United States Ambassador to the
11 United Nations shall receive the funds necessary to
12 fulfill the United States Mission to the United Na-
13 tions missions and responsibilities under subtitle A
14 for fiscal years 2026 and 2027;

15 (2) there is authorized to be made available to
16 positions described in subtitle B the funds necessary
17 to fulfill position missions and responsibilities for
18 fiscal years 2026 and 2027; and

19 (3) there is authorized to be made available to
20 the heads of the bureaus, offices, and other entities
21 described in subtitle C the funds necessary to fulfill
22 bureau, office, and other entity missions and respon-
23 sibilities for fiscal years 2026 and 2027.

24 (c) REPORT ON UNFUNDED PRIORITIES OF THE DE-
25 PARTMENT.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 10 days after
2 the date on which the budget for any fiscal year is
3 submitted by the President to Congress pursuant to
4 section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, the
5 Secretary shall prepare and submit to the appro-
6 priate committees of Congress a report on unfunded
7 priorities.

8 (2) ELEMENTS.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—The report required by
10 paragraph (1) shall include, with respect to
11 each unfunded priority covered by such re-
12 port—

13 (i) a summary description of such pri-
14 ority, including the objectives to be
15 achieved if such priority is funded (wheth-
16 er in whole or in part);

17 (ii) the additional amount of funds
18 recommended to be made available to
19 achieve the objectives referred to in clause
20 (i); and

21 (iii) budget information with respect
22 to such priority, including—

23 (I) the appropriation account;

24 (II) the expenditure center; and

1 (III) the project and, if applica-
2 ble, any subprojects.

3 (B) PRIORITIZATION.—The report required
4 by paragraph (1) shall present the unfunded
5 priorities covered by such report in overall order
6 of urgency of priority among unfunded prior-
7 ities.

8 (3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

9 (A) the term “appropriate committees of
10 Congress” means—

11 (i) the Committee on Foreign Affairs
12 and the Committee on Appropriations of
13 the House of Representatives; and

14 (ii) the Committee on Foreign Rela-
15 tions and the Committee on Appropriations
16 of the Senate; and

17 (B) the term “unfunded priority”, with re-
18 spect to a fiscal year, means a program, activ-
19 ity, or mission requirement of an element of the
20 Department that—

21 (i) is not funded in the budget for
22 such fiscal year submitted by the President
23 to Congress pursuant to section 1105 of
24 title 31, United States Code;

1 (ii) is necessary to fulfill a foreign pol-
2 icy or national security objective or to sat-
3 isfy an information requirement associated
4 with a goal or objective outlined in the
5 Joint Strategic Plan agreed upon by the
6 Department; and

7 (iii) would have been recommended
8 for funding by the Secretary if—

9 (I) additional resources had been
10 available for such budget to fund such
11 program, activity, or mission require-
12 ment; or

13 (II) the program, activity, or mis-
14 sion requirement has emerged since
15 such budget was formulated.

16 **Subtitle E—United States Code** 17 **Classification**

18 **SEC. 141. CLASSIFICATION IN UNITED STATES CODE.**

19 The Office of Law Revision Counsel is directed to—

20 (1) utilize sections 6 through 35 of title 22,
21 United States Code, to classify the sections of this
22 title; and

23 (2) maintain the legislative history, under edi-
24 torial notes, of repealed law which previously occu-

- 1 pied the corresponding sections of United States
- 2 Code.

○