

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8817

To permit the transfer of United States defense articles and defense services
among the Baltic states.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 14, 2026

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas (for herself, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. KEATING, Mr. BACON, and Mr. CARBAJAL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To permit the transfer of United States defense articles
and defense services among the Baltic states.

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 “Facilitating Oper-
5 ational Readiness Through Inter-Baltics Flexibility Act”
6 or the “FORTIFY Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

8 It is the sense of Congress that—

9 (1) the Baltic states play an important role in
10 deterring aggression by the Russian Federation due

1 to the strategic geographic location of the Baltic
2 states in relation to—

3 (A) the ongoing war between Ukraine and
4 the Russian Federation; and

5 (B) the Russian Federation’s increasing
6 interest in Europe overall; and

7 (2) if the Baltic states were given standing per-
8 mission and the capability to use the defense articles
9 and services of each other Baltic state, and were
10 provided the training to do so, the Russian Federa-
11 tion would likely assume that the entire combined
12 fleet in the Baltic states could operate at any time
13 anywhere in the Baltic region, which would signifi-
14 cantly complicate Russian Federation planning and
15 enhance deterrence at no cost.

16 **SEC. 3. PERMISSION TO TRANSFERS UNITED STATES DE-**
17 **FENSE ARTICLES AND DEFENSE SERVICES**
18 **AMONG BALTIC STATES.**

19 (a) EXEMPTIONS FROM REQUIREMENT FOR CON-
20 SENT TO TRANSFER.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section
22 3(a)(2) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C.
23 2753(a)(2)) and Section 505(a)(1) of the Foreign
24 Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2314(a)(1)), re-
25 transfers of any defense article or defense service

1 among the Baltic states shall not require prior Pres-
2 idential consent.

3 (2) PRIOR AGREEMENTS.—

4 (A) CONSENT TO TRANSFER NOT RE-
5 QUIRED.—Any agreement between the United
6 States and a Baltic state under section 3 of the
7 Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2753)
8 with respect to any defense article or defense
9 service shall not require the Baltic state to seek
10 approval from the United States to transfer
11 such article or service to any other Baltic state.

12 (B) MODIFICATION.—With respect to any
13 agreement under section 3(a)(2) of the Arms
14 Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2753(a)(2)) in
15 effect as of the date of the enactment of this
16 Act that requires the consent of the President
17 before a Baltic state may transfer a defense ar-
18 ticle or defense service, the United States shall
19 modify such agreement so as to remove such re-
20 quirement with respect to such a transfer to
21 any other Baltic state.

22 (b) COMMON COALITION KEY.—The Secretary of De-
23 fense shall establish among the Baltic countries a common
24 coalition key within the Baltic states for the purpose of
25 sharing ammunition for any defense article or service

1 among the Baltic states for training and operational pur-
2 poses.

3 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) BALTIC STATE.—The term “Baltic state”
5 means the following:

6 (A) Estonia.

7 (B) Lithuania.

8 (C) Latvia.

9 (2) DEFENSE ARTICLE; DEFENSE SERVICE.—
10 The terms “defense article” and “defense service”
11 have the meanings given such terms in section 47 of
12 the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2794).

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