

S. 554

To enhance bilateral defense cooperation between the United States and Israel, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 12, 2025

Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. RICKETTS, and Ms. ROSEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To enhance bilateral defense cooperation between the United States and Israel, 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 “United States-Israel
5 Defense Partnership Act of 2025”.

6 SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

7 It is the sense of Congress that—

8 (1) the United States and Israel—

9 (A) are bound closely by historic and cul-

10 tural ties and mutual interests; and

1 (B) face common threats, which are con-
2 stantly evolving in scope, scale, and lethality;

3 (2) to most effectively counter such shared
4 threats, the United States and Israel must expand
5 their defense partnership to develop new technologies
6 and leverage the unique capabilities offered by de-
7 fense industrial base of each country; and

8 (3) this Act furthers such goal through the es-
9 tablishment of several joint initiatives.

10 **SEC. 3. UNITED STATES-ISRAEL PROGRAM ON COUN-**
11 **TERING UNMANNED SYSTEMS.**

12 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
13 ings:

14 (1) The increasing use of unmanned systems by
15 state and nonstate actors poses a significant threat
16 to the national security of the United States and its
17 allies, including Israel.

18 (2) Cooperation in developing and deploying
19 counter-unmanned systems technology will enhance
20 mutual security and strengthen bilateral defense ca-
21 pabilities.

22 (3) Israel is a global leader in the development
23 of advanced counter-unmanned systems technologies,
24 and a cooperative program will leverage shared ex-
25 pertise and resources to address evolving threats.

1 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense,
3 with the concurrence of the Minister of Defense of
4 Israel, shall establish a cooperative program between
5 the United States and Israel, to be known as the
6 “United States-Israel Counter-Unmanned Systems
7 Program”, for the purpose of enhancing cooperation
8 between the United States and Israel for purposes
9 of—

10 (A) developing, testing, evaluating, and de-
11 ploying advanced technologies for countering
12 unmanned systems that threaten the United
13 States and Israel;

14 (B) sharing technical expertise and data
15 on emerging unmanned systems and related
16 threats;

17 (C) conducting joint research and develop-
18 ment initiatives; and

19 (D) deploying and integrating counter-un-
20 manned systems for mutual defense.

21 (2) ACTIVITIES.—The program established
22 under this subsection shall include the following:

23 (A) Collaborative research initiatives in-
24 volving government, private sector, and aca-
25 demic institutions in the United States and

1 Israel, conducted in a manner that protects sen-
2 sitive technology and information and the na-
3 tional security interests of the United States
4 and Israel.

5 (B) Joint training exercises and informa-
6 tion-sharing mechanisms to enhance operational
7 readiness of personnel of the United States and
8 of Israel.

9 (C) The establishment, within the Depart-
10 ment of Defense, of a United States-Israel
11 Counter-Unmanned Systems Program Office to
12 oversee program execution and coordination.

13 (D) The procurement and deployment of
14 counter-unmanned systems.

15 (c) ANNUAL REPORT.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
17 the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually
18 thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to
19 the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and
20 the Committee on Armed Services of the House of
21 Representatives a report on the implementation of
22 the program established under this section.

23 (2) ELEMENTS.—Each report required by para-
24 graph (1) shall include, for the preceding year—

1 (A) a description of activities conducted
2 under the program;

3 (B) an assessment of progress made in ad-
4 dressing unmanned systems threats and re-
5 quirements;

6 (C) an assessment of the program's col-
7 laboration with other relevant United States
8 Government programs, including the United
9 States-Israel Operations-Technology Working
10 Group and Counter Unmanned Aerial Systems
11 program run by the Irregular Warfare Tech-
12 nical Support Directorate; and

13 (D) recommendations for future program
14 activities and funding.

15 (3) FORM.—Each report submitted under para-
16 graph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form but
17 may include a classified annex as necessary to pro-
18 tect sensitive information.

19 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
20 authorized to be appropriated \$150,000,000 for each of
21 fiscal years 2026 through 2030 to carry out the program
22 under this section.

23 (e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
24 tion shall be construed to alter or supersede agreements

1 or obligations between the United States and Israel in ex-
 2 istence on the date of the enactment of this Act.

3 **SEC. 4. EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF UNITED**
 4 **STATES-ISRAEL ANTI-TUNNEL COOPERATION.**

5 Section 1279 of the National Defense Authorization
 6 Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114–92; 22 U.S.C.
 7 8606 note) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (b)(4), by striking
 9 “\$50,000,000” and inserting “\$80,000,000”; and

10 (2) in subsection (f), by striking “December 31,
 11 2026” and inserting “December 31, 2028”.

12 **SEC. 5. EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF UNITED**
 13 **STATES-ISRAEL COOPERATION TO COUNTER**
 14 **UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS.**

15 Section 1278 of the National Defense Authorization
 16 Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (22 U.S.C. 8606 note) is amend-
 17 ed—

18 (1) in subsection (b)(4), by striking
 19 “\$55,000,000” and inserting “\$75,000,000”; and

20 (2) in subsection (f), by striking “December 31,
 21 2026” and inserting “December 31, 2028”.

22 **SEC. 6. UNITED STATES-ISRAEL EMERGING TECHNOLOGY**
 23 **CAPABILITIES COOPERATION.**

24 (a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the
 25 United States to support and encourage further defense

1 collaboration with Israel in areas of emerging technologies
2 capable of enabling the warfare capabilities of both the
3 United States and Israel to meet emerging defense chal-
4 lenges, including in the areas of artificial intelligence, cy-
5 bersecurity, robotics, quantum, and automation.

6 (b) AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH EMERGING DEFENSE
7 TECHNOLOGY CAPABILITIES PROGRAM WITH ISRAEL.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense,
9 upon request by the Ministry of Defense of Israel
10 and in consultation with the Secretary of State and
11 the Director of National Intelligence, is authorized
12 to carry out, jointly with Israel, research, develop-
13 ment, test, and evaluation in areas of emerging tech-
14 nologies capable of enabling the warfare capabilities
15 of the United States and Israel to meet emerging de-
16 fense challenges, including in the areas of artificial
17 intelligence, cybersecurity, robotics, quantum, and
18 automation.

19 (2) PROTECTION OF SENSITIVE INFORMA-
20 TION.—Any activity carried out pursuant to the au-
21 thority provided by paragraph (1) shall be conducted
22 in a manner that appropriately protects sensitive in-
23 formation and the national security interests of the
24 United States and Israel.

1 (3) REPORT.—None of the activities described
2 in paragraph (1) may be carried out until the date
3 on which the Secretary of Defense submits to the
4 Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and
5 the House of Representatives a report that sets
6 forth the following:

7 (A) A memorandum of agreement between
8 the United States and Israel regarding sharing
9 of research and development costs for the capa-
10 bilities described in paragraph (1), and any
11 supporting documents.

12 (B) A certification that such memorandum
13 of agreement—

14 (i) requires sharing of costs of
15 projects, including in-kind support, be-
16 tween the United States and Israel;

17 (ii) establishes a framework to nego-
18 tiate the rights to any intellectual property
19 developed under the memorandum of
20 agreement; and

21 (iii) requires the United States Gov-
22 ernment to receive semiannual reports on
23 expenditure of funds, if any, by the Gov-
24 ernment of Israel, including a description
25 of what the funds have been used for,

1 when funds were expended, and an identi-
2 fication of entities that expended the
3 funds.

4 (c) LEAD AGENCY.—Not earlier than the date on
5 which the Secretary of Defense submits the report re-
6 quired by subsection (b)(3), the Secretary of Defense shall
7 designate the Irregular Warfare Technology Support Di-
8 rectorate as the lead agency of the Department of Defense
9 in carrying out this section.

10 (d) SEMIANNUAL REPORTS.—The Secretary of De-
11 fense shall submit to the appropriate committees of Con-
12 gress on a semiannual basis a report that contains a copy
13 of the most recent semiannual report provided by the Gov-
14 ernment of Israel to the Department of Defense pursuant
15 to subsection (b)(3)(B)(iii).

16 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
17 authorized to be appropriated \$50,000,000 for each of fis-
18 cal years 2026 through 2030 to carry out the program
19 under this section.

20 **SEC. 7. EXTENSION OF WAR RESERVES STOCKPILE AU-**
21 **THORITY.**

22 Section 12001(d) of the Department of Defense Ap-
23 propriations Act, 2005 (Public Law 108–287; 118 Stat.
24 1011) is amended by striking “after January 1, 2027”
25 and inserting “after January 1 2029”.

1 **SEC. 8. ESTABLISHMENT OF DEFENSE INNOVATION UNIT**
2 **OFFICE IN ISRAEL.**

3 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
4 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall establish
5 in Israel a Defense Innovation Unit office—

6 (1) to engage the Minister of Defense of Israel
7 and representatives of the private sector in collabo-
8 rative efforts to counter development by Iran of
9 dual-use defense technologies; and

10 (2) to leverage resources and innovation activi-
11 ties of the United States and Israel for the benefit
12 of the national security of the United States and
13 Israel.

14 **SEC. 9. NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRIAL BASE.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
16 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense
17 shall seek to engage the Minister of Defense of Israel in
18 a discussion of the process of the ascension of Israel into
19 the national technology and industrial base (as defined in
20 section 4801 of title 10, United States Code).

21 (b) PROTECTION OF SENSITIVE INFORMATION.—Any
22 activity carried out pursuant to the authority provided by
23 subsection (a) shall be conducted in a manner that appro-
24 priately protects sensitive information and the national se-
25 curity interests of the United States and Israel.

1 **SEC. 10. ASSESSMENT OF INTEGRATED AIR AND MISSILE**
2 **DEFENSE IN REGION COVERED BY UNITED**
3 **STATES CENTRAL COMMAND.**

4 (a) **ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.**—The Secretary of De-
5 fense shall conduct an assessment of the integrated air
6 and missile defense in the region cover by United States
7 Central Command.

8 (b) **ELEMENTS.**—The assessment conducted pursu-
9 ant to subsection (a) shall cover the following:

10 (1) The current strength of the integrated air
11 and missile defense in the region described in sub-
12 section (a).

13 (2) How best to strengthen the integrated air
14 and missile defense described in paragraph (1).

15 (3) What would be required to expand or deep-
16 en cooperation among the United States, Israel, and
17 other regional partners of the United States to
18 achieve full operational capability of the integrated
19 air and missile defense described in paragraph (1),
20 including identification of the amount of funding
21 and new legal authorities that may be required for
22 such expansion or deepening.

23 (c) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In carrying out the assess-
24 ment required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall con-
25 sider the following:

1 (1) The strategy required by section 1658(b) of
2 James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization
3 Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117–263).

4 (2) Current cooperation among partners of the
5 United States in the region described by subsection
6 (a) on integrated air and missile defense.

7 (3) Lessons learned in countering the April 13,
8 2024, and October 1, 2024, airstrikes by Iran
9 against Israel.

10 (d) REPORT.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
12 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
13 retary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on
14 Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Rep-
15 resentatives a report on the assessment conducted
16 under this section.

17 (2) FORM.—The report required by paragraph
18 (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may
19 contain a classified annex.

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