

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To counter efforts by Hezbollah to conduct terrorist activities in Latin America, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. CURTIS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To counter efforts by Hezbollah to conduct terrorist activities in Latin America, 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 “No Hezbollah In Our
5 Hemisphere Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Hezbollah and Iran have been allowed to
9 build their Latin American regional networks with
10 impunity.

1 (2) Hezbollah is not considered a terrorist orga-
2 nization in most countries south of the Rio Grande
3 River.

4 (3) In Latin America, the only countries that
5 have designated Hezbollah as a terrorist organiza-
6 tion are Argentina, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras,
7 and Paraguay.

8 (4) The ability of local authorities to monitor or
9 prosecute Hezbollah and its local operatives is lim-
10 ited without such a designation.

11 (5) Hezbollah enjoys open support from local
12 authoritarian regimes aligned with the Islamic Re-
13 public of Iran, such as the Nicolás Maduro regime
14 in Venezuela, which has essentially become Iran's
15 forward operating base in Latin America.

16 (6) Hezbollah's infrastructure in Peru, Colom-
17 bia, Chile, and the Tri-Border Area of Argentina,
18 Brazil, and Paraguay continues to thrive.

19 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

20 It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary of State
21 should pursue aggressive efforts against Iranian proxy
22 networks in the Western Hemisphere, including by—

23 (1) demanding that local governments put an
24 end to the impunity enjoyed by designated individ-

1 uals and entities or face consequences for their inac-
2 tion;

3 (2) working with allies, potentially through
4 international forums, such as the Financial Action
5 Task Force, to blacklist government entities that co-
6 operate with Hezbollah;

7 (3) engaging governments in Latin America to
8 ensure they have adequate legislative tools to inves-
9 tigate terrorist activities and combat the financing of
10 terrorism; and

11 (4) persuading allies in the Latin America to
12 designate Hezbollah as a terrorist organization,
13 using Argentina’s model for designation as a blue-
14 print.

15 **SEC. 4. DEFINED TERM.**

16 In this Act, the term “appropriate congressional com-
17 mittees” means—

18 (1) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Sen-
19 ate;

20 (2) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and
21 Urban Affairs of the Senate;

22 (3) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the
23 Senate;

24 (4) the Committee on the Judiciary of the
25 House of Representatives;

1 (5) the Committee on Financial Services of the
2 House of Representatives; and

3 (6) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
4 House of Representatives.

5 **SEC. 5. DETERMINATION WITH RESPECT TO TERRORIST**
6 **SANCTUARIES.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
8 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State,
9 in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence,
10 the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Homeland
11 Security, the Attorney General, and the heads of other rel-
12 evant Federal agencies, shall—

13 (1) conduct an assessment to determine wheth-
14 er any country, region, or jurisdiction in Latin
15 America meets the definition of “terrorist sanc-
16 tuary” under section 140(d)(4) of the Foreign Rela-
17 tions Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1988 and
18 1989 (22 U.S.C. 2656f(d)(4)); and

19 (2) submit the results of such assessment to the
20 appropriate congressional committees.

21 (b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making a determination
22 pursuant to subsection (a), the Secretary of State shall
23 consider—

24 (1) the extent to which Hezbollah or any other
25 foreign terrorist organization (as designated pursu-

1 ant to section 219(a) of the Immigration and Na-
2 tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189(a)) operates freely,
3 raises or transfers funds, recruits, or obtains safe
4 haven within a given country, region, or jurisdiction;

5 (2) whether the host government has knowingly
6 tolerated or failed to take actions to address such
7 terrorist activities; and

8 (3) any other factors relevant to the definition
9 of “terrorist sanctuary” under section 140(d)(4) of
10 the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal
11 Years 1988 and 1989 (22 U.S.C. 2656f(d)(4)).

12 **SEC. 6. REVOCATION OF VISAS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President may impose the
14 sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to any
15 foreign individual the President determines is a govern-
16 ment official of, or is operating in the financial sector of,
17 any foreign state, subdivision, or municipality designated
18 as a terrorist sanctuary under section 5 unless such offi-
19 cial or actor has taken significant, verifiable steps to stop
20 such activity or the relevant jurisdiction no longer meets
21 the definition of terrorist sanctuary under section
22 140(d)(4) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fis-
23 cal Years 1988 and 1989 (22 U.S.C. 2656f(d)(4)).

24 (b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—

1 (ii) automatically cancel any other
2 valid visa or entry documentation that is in
3 the foreign individual's possession.

4 (C) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 180
5 days after the date of the enactment of this
6 Act, the Secretary of State shall prescribe such
7 regulations as may be necessary to carry out
8 this subsection.

9 (c) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH LAW ENFORCE-
10 MENT OBJECTIVES AND AGREEMENT REGARDING THE
11 HEADQUARTERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS.—Sanctions
12 under subsection (b) shall not apply to a foreign person
13 if admitting the person into the United States—

14 (1) would further important law enforcement
15 objectives; or

16 (2) is necessary to permit the United States to
17 comply with the Agreement regarding the Head-
18 quarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Suc-
19 cess June 26, 1947, and entered into force Novem-
20 ber 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the
21 United States, or other applicable international obli-
22 gations of the United States.

23 (d) TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS.—The President
24 may terminate the application of sanctions under this sec-
25 tion with respect to a foreign individual if the President

1 determines and reports to the appropriate congressional
2 committees not later than 15 days before the termination
3 of such sanctions that—

4 (1) the foreign individual is no longer engaged
5 in the activity that was the basis for such sanctions
6 or has taken significant verifiable steps toward stop-
7 ping such activity;

8 (2) the President has received reliable assur-
9 ances that such individual will not knowingly engage
10 in any activity subject to sanctions under this sec-
11 tion in the future; or

12 (3) the termination of such sanctions is in the
13 national security interests of the United States.

14 (e) RULEMAKING.—The President shall issue such
15 regulations, licenses, and orders as may be necessary to
16 carry out this section.