

Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 4133, With an Amendment

(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)

112TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4133

To express the sense of Congress regarding the United States-Israel strategic relationship, to direct the President to submit to Congress reports on United States actions to enhance this relationship and to assist in the defense of Israel, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 5, 2012

Mr. CANTOR (for himself, Mr. HOYER, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, and Mr. BERMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To express the sense of Congress regarding the United States-Israel strategic relationship, to direct the President to submit to Congress reports on United States actions to enhance this relationship and to assist in the defense of 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “United States-Israel
3 Enhanced Security Cooperation Act of 2012”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Since 1948, United States Presidents and
7 both houses of Congress, on a bipartisan basis and
8 supported by the American people, have repeatedly
9 reaffirmed the special bond between the United
10 States and Israel, based on shared values and
11 shared interests.

12 (2) The Middle East is undergoing rapid
13 change, bringing with it hope for an expansion of de-
14 mocracy but also great challenges to the national se-
15 curity of the United States and our allies in the re-
16 gion, particularly our most important ally in the re-
17 gion, Israel. Over the past year, the Middle East has
18 witnessed the fall of some regimes long considered to
19 be stabilizing forces and a rise in the influence of
20 radical Islamists.

21 (3) Iran, which has long sought to foment in-
22 stability and promote extremism in the Middle East,
23 is now seeking to exploit the dramatic political tran-
24 sition underway in the region to undermine govern-
25 ments traditionally aligned with the United States

1 and support extremist political movements in these
2 countries.

3 (4) At the same time, Iran may soon attain a
4 nuclear weapons capability, a development that
5 would fundamentally threaten vital American inter-
6 ests, destabilize the region, encourage regional nu-
7 clear proliferation, further empower and embolden
8 Iran, the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism,
9 and provide it the tools to threaten its neighbors, in-
10 cluding Israel.

11 (5) Over the past several years, with the assist-
12 ance of Iran and Syria, Hizballah and Hamas have
13 increased their stockpiles of rockets, with more than
14 60,000 rockets now ready to be fired at Israel. Iran
15 continues to add to its arsenal of ballistic missiles
16 and cruise missiles, which threaten Iran's neighbors,
17 Israel, and United States military forces in the re-
18 gion.

19 (6) As a result, the strategic environment that
20 has kept Israel secure and safeguarded United
21 States national interests for the past 35 years has
22 eroded.

23 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

24 It is the policy of the United States:

1 (1) To reaffirm the enduring commitment of
2 the United States to the security of the State of
3 Israel as a Jewish state. As President Obama stated
4 on December 16, 2011, “America’s commitment and
5 my commitment to Israel and Israel’s security is
6 unshakeable.”. And as President Bush stated before
7 the Knesset on the 60th anniversary of the founding
8 of the State of Israel on May 15, 2008, “The alli-
9 ance between our governments is unbreakable, yet
10 the source of our friendship runs deeper than any
11 treaty.”.

12 (2) To provide Israel the military capabilities
13 necessary to deter and defend itself by itself against
14 any threats.

15 (3) To veto any one-sided anti-Israel resolutions
16 at the United Nations Security Council.

17 (4) To support Israel’s inherent right to self-de-
18 fense.

19 (5) To pursue avenues to expand cooperation
20 with Israel in both defense and across the spectrum
21 of civilian sectors, including high technology, agri-
22 culture, medicine, health, pharmaceuticals, and en-
23 ergy.

24 (6) To assist Israel with its on-going efforts to
25 forge a peaceful, negotiated settlement of the Israeli-

1 Palestinian conflict that results in two states living
2 side by side in peace and security, and to encourage
3 Israel's neighbors to recognize Israel's right to exist
4 as a Jewish state.

5 **SEC. 4. UNITED STATES ACTIONS TO ASSIST IN THE DE-**
6 **FENSE OF ISRAEL AND PROTECT AMERICAN**
7 **INTERESTS.**

8 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
9 gress that the United States should take the following ac-
10 tions to assist in the defense of Israel:

11 (1) Provide Israel such support as may be nec-
12 essary to increase development and production of
13 joint missile defense systems, particularly such sys-
14 tems that defend the urgent threat posed to Israel
15 and United States forces in the region.

16 (2) Provide Israel assistance specifically for the
17 production and procurement of the Iron Dome de-
18 fense system for purposes of intercepting short-
19 range missiles, rockets, and projectiles launched
20 against Israel.

21 (3) Provide Israel defense articles and defense
22 services through such mechanisms as appropriate, to
23 include air refueling tankers, missile defense capa-
24 bilities, and specialized munitions.

1 (4) Allocate additional weaponry and munitions
2 for the forward-deployed United States stockpile in
3 Israel.

4 (5) Provide Israel additional surplus defense ar-
5 ticles and defense services, as appropriate, in the
6 wake of the withdrawal of United States forces from
7 Iraq.

8 (6) Strengthen efforts to prevent weapons
9 smuggling into Gaza pursuant to the 2005 Agree-
10 ment on Movement and Access following the Israeli
11 withdrawal from Gaza and to protect against weap-
12 ons smuggling and terrorist threats from the Sinai
13 Peninsula.

14 (7) Offer the Israeli Air Force additional train-
15 ing and exercise opportunities in the United States
16 to compensate for Israel's limited air space.

17 (8) Expand Israel's authority to make pur-
18 chases under the Foreign Military Financing pro-
19 gram on a commercial basis.

20 (9) Seek to enhance the capabilities of the
21 United States and Israel to address emerging com-
22 mon threats, increase security cooperation, and ex-
23 pand joint military exercises.

24 (10) Encourage an expanded role for Israel
25 within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization

1 (NATO), including an enhanced presence at NATO
2 headquarters and exercises.

3 (11) Support extension of the long-standing
4 loan guarantee program for Israel, recognizing
5 Israel's unbroken record of repaying its loans on
6 time and in full.

7 (12) Expand already-close intelligence coopera-
8 tion, including satellite intelligence, with Israel.

9 (b) REPORT ON ISRAEL'S QUALITATIVE MILITARY
10 EDGE.—

11 (1) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of
12 the United States—

13 (A) to help Israel preserve its qualitative
14 military edge amid rapid and uncertain regional
15 political transformation; and

16 (B) to encourage further development of
17 advanced technology programs between the
18 United States and Israel given current trends
19 and instability in the region.

20 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after
21 the date of the enactment of this Act, the President
22 shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
23 the House of Representatives and the Committee on
24 Foreign Relations of the Senate a report on the sta-

1 tus of Israel’s qualitative military edge in light of
2 current trends and instability in the region.

3 (c) REPORTS ON OTHER MATTERS.—Not later than
4 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
5 President shall submit to the appropriate congressional
6 committees a report on each of the following:

7 (1) Taking into account Israel’s urgent require-
8 ment for F–35 aircraft, actions to improve the proc-
9 ess relating to Israel’s purchase of F–35 aircraft to
10 improve cost efficiency and timely delivery.

11 (2) Efforts to expand cooperation between the
12 United States and Israel in homeland security,
13 counter-terrorism, maritime security, energy, cyber-
14 security, and other appropriate areas.

15 (3) Actions to integrate Israel into the defense
16 of the Eastern Mediterranean.

17 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
19 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
20 mittees” means—

21 (A) the Committee on Appropriations, the
22 Committee on Armed Services, and the Com-
23 mittee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-
24 resentatives; and

1 (B) the Committee on Appropriations, the
2 Committee on Armed Services, and the Com-
3 mittee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

4 (2) **QUALITATIVE MILITARY EDGE.**—The term
5 “qualitative military edge” has the meaning given
6 the term in section 36(h)(2) of the Arms Export
7 Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2776(h)(2)).

8 **SEC. 5. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE LOAN**
9 **GUARANTEES TO ISRAEL.**

10 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Chapter 5 of title I of the Emer-
11 gency Wartime Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2003
12 (Public Law 108–11), as amended, is further amended in
13 the item relating to “Loan Guarantees to Israel”—

14 (1) in the matter preceding the first proviso, by
15 striking “September 30, 2011” and inserting “Sep-
16 tember 30, 2015”; and

17 (2) in the second proviso, by striking “Sep-
18 tember 30, 2011” and inserting “September 30,
19 2015”.

20 (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by
21 this section take effect on the date of enactment of this
22 Act.