

Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 1632, with an Amendment

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

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1632

To require a strategy for engagement with Southeast Asia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 7, 2019

Mrs. WAGNER (for herself, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, and Mr. YOHO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To require a strategy for engagement with Southeast Asia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

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 “Southeast Asia Strat-
5 egy Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Southeast Asia is the fulcrum of the Indo-
2 Pacific region, providing both a geographic and mar-
3 itime link between East and South Asia.

4 (2) The Association of Southeast Asian Nations
5 (ASEAN), a regional intergovernmental organiza-
6 tion, remains central to the Indo-Pacific region's in-
7 stitutional architecture and to United States foreign
8 policy toward the region.

9 (3) The United States has reaffirmed that the
10 security and sovereignty of its Southeast Asian allies
11 and partners, including a strong, independent
12 ASEAN, remain vital to the security, prosperity, and
13 stability of the Indo-Pacific region.

14 (4) The United States has committed to con-
15 tinuing to deepen longstanding alliances and part-
16 nerships with a range of Southeast Asian nations,
17 including by promoting our shared values, democ-
18 racy, human rights, and civil society.

19 (5) Since the end of the Second World War,
20 United States investments in strengthening alliances
21 and partnerships with Southeast Asian nations have
22 yielded tremendous returns for United States inter-
23 ests, as working with and through these alliances
24 and partnerships have increased the region's capac-
25 ity and capability to address common challenges.

1 (6) ASEAN member states are critical United
2 States security partners in preventing violent extre-
3 mism and protecting the freedom and openness of
4 the maritime domain and in preventing the traf-
5 ficking of weapons of mass destruction.

6 (7) ASEAN member states have contributed
7 significantly to regional disaster monitoring and
8 management and emergency response through initia-
9 tives such as the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for
10 Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management,
11 an inter-governmental organization that facilitates
12 coordination and cooperation among ASEAN mem-
13 ber states and international organizations in times
14 of emergency.

15 (8) According to the 2018 ASEAN Business
16 Outlook Survey, ASEAN member states are vital to
17 the prosperity of the United States economy and ex-
18 ports to ASEAN economies support more than
19 500,000 jobs in the United States.

20 (9) The United States and ASEAN have re-
21 cently celebrated the 40th anniversary of their ties
22 and established a new strategic partnership that will
23 enhance cooperation across the economic, political-
24 security, and people-to-people pillars of the relation-
25 ship.

1 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

2 It is the policy of the United States to—

3 (1) deepen cooperation with ASEAN and
4 ASEAN member states in the interest of promoting
5 peace, security, and stability in the Indo-Pacific re-
6 gion;

7 (2) affirm the importance of ASEAN centrality
8 and ASEAN-led mechanisms in the evolving institu-
9 tional architecture of the Indo-Pacific region; and

10 (3) establish and communicate a comprehensive
11 strategy toward the Indo-Pacific region that articu-
12 lates—

13 (A) the role and importance of Southeast
14 Asia to the United States;

15 (B) the value of the United States-ASEAN
16 relationship;

17 (C) the mutual interests of all parties;

18 (D) the concrete and material benefits all
19 nations derive from strong United States en-
20 gagement and leadership in Southeast Asia; and

21 (E) efforts to forge and maintain ASEAN
22 consensus, especially on key issues of political
23 and security concern to the region, such as the
24 South China Sea.

1 **SEC. 4. STRATEGY FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH SOUTHEAST**
2 **ASIA AND ASEAN.**

3 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the
4 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State,
5 in consultation with the heads of other Federal depart-
6 ments and agencies as appropriate, shall develop and sub-
7 mit to the appropriate congressional committees a com-
8 prehensive strategy for engagement with Southeast Asia
9 and ASEAN.

10 (b) **MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.**—The strategy re-
11 quired by subsection (a) shall include the following:

12 (1) A statement of enduring United States in-
13 terests in Southeast Asia and a description of efforts
14 to bolster the effectiveness of ASEAN.

15 (2) A description of efforts to—

16 (A) deepen and expand Southeast Asian al-
17 liances, partnerships, and multilateral engage-
18 ments, including efforts to expand broad based
19 and inclusive economic growth, security ties, se-
20 curity cooperation and interoperability, eco-
21 nomic connectivity, and expand opportunities
22 for ASEAN to work with other like-minded
23 partners in the region; and

24 (B) encourage like-minded partners outside
25 of the Indo-Pacific region to engage with
26 ASEAN.

1 (3) A summary of initiatives across the whole
2 of the United States Government to strengthen the
3 United States partnership with Southeast Asian na-
4 tions and ASEAN, including to promote broad based
5 and inclusive economic growth, trade, investment,
6 energy and efforts to combat climate change, public-
7 private partnerships, physical and digital infrastruc-
8 ture development, education, disaster management,
9 public health and economic and political diplomacy
10 in Southeast Asia.

11 (4) A summary of initiatives across the whole
12 of the United States Government to enhance the ca-
13 pacity of Southeast Asian nations with respect to en-
14 forcing international law and multilateral sanctions,
15 and initiatives to cooperate with ASEAN as an insti-
16 tution in these areas.

17 (5) A summary of initiatives across the whole
18 of the United States Government to promote human
19 rights and democracy, to strengthen the rule of law,
20 civil society, and transparent governance, and to
21 protect the integrity of elections from outside influ-
22 ence.

23 (6) A summary of initiatives to promote secu-
24 rity cooperation and security assistance within
25 Southeast Asian nations, including—

1 (A) maritime security and maritime do-
2 main awareness initiatives for protecting the
3 maritime commons and supporting international
4 law and freedom of navigation in the South
5 China Sea; and

6 (B) efforts to combat terrorism, human
7 trafficking, piracy, and illegal fishing, and pro-
8 mote more open, reliable routes for sea lines of
9 communication.

10 (c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-
11 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congres-
12 sional committees” means—

13 (1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the
14 Committee on Armed Services of the House of Rep-
15 resentatives; and

16 (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and
17 the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate.