

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9151

To strengthen the Department of Justice's enforcement against trade-related crimes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 25, 2024

Mrs. HINSON (for herself, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. IVEY, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. LIEU, Mr. MORAN, Ms. ROSS, Mr. CLINE, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. KILEY, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. STEFANIK, and Mr. CORREA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To strengthen the Department of Justice's enforcement against trade-related crimes.

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 “Protecting American
5 Industry and Labor from International Trade Crimes Act
6 of 2024”.

7 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this Act, the following definitions shall apply:

1 (1) TRADE-RELATED CRIMES.—The term
2 “trade-related crimes” shall be defined as violations
3 of law that are implicated by criminal activities in
4 furtherance of the evasion of duties, tariffs, and
5 other import- and export-related fees, import and ex-
6 port restrictions, or requirements imposed by the
7 Tariff Act of 1930, the Trade Expansion Act of
8 1962, and/or the Trade Act of 1974, each as amend-
9 ed, the Countering America’s Adversaries Through
10 Sanctions Act, as well as all other laws and regula-
11 tions involving criminal activities relating to United
12 States imports and exports, trade-based money laun-
13 dering, and smuggling.

14 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW STRUCTURE TO PROS-**
15 **ECUTE INTERNATIONAL TRADE CRIMES.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—A task force, named program, or
17 other similar structure to investigate and prosecute trade-
18 related crimes, with particular emphasis on violations of
19 the statutes enumerated in section 4(a)(2), will be estab-
20 lished within the Criminal Division of the Department of
21 Justice within 120 days, after availability of appropria-
22 tions, and coordinated by a supervisory criminal trial at-
23 torney selected by the Assistant Attorney General of the
24 Criminal Division or other official designated by the Attor-
25 ney General.

1 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—To support this effort, the
2 Department of Justice shall—

3 (1) create within the Criminal Division new po-
4 sitions for criminal trial attorneys and associated
5 support personnel responsible for leading and coordi-
6 nating trade-related crime investigations and cases,
7 including those that may significantly impact more
8 than one district;

9 (2) ensure that experienced and technically
10 qualified criminal prosecutors support this effort;
11 and

12 (3) promote and ensure effective interaction
13 with law enforcement, industry representatives, and
14 the public in matters relating to trade-related
15 crimes.

16 **SEC. 4. DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF NEW TRADE CRIMES**
17 **STRUCTURE.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Through the efforts of the task
19 force, named program, or other structure identified in sec-
20 tion 3(a), the Department of Justice shall accomplish each
21 of the following:

22 (1) Increase the capabilities and capacity of its
23 Criminal Division to prosecute trade-related crimes.

24 (2) Increase the number of trade-related crimes
25 being investigated and prosecuted pursuant but not

1 limited to health, safety, financial, and economic
2 trade-related crimes under titles 13, 15, 18, and 21,
3 United States Code, including but not limited to—

4 (A) 13 U.S.C. 305;

5 (B) 15 U.S.C. 2614–15;

6 (C) 18 U.S.C. 371;

7 (D) 18 U.S.C. 541;

8 (E) 18 U.S.C. 542;

9 (F) 18 U.S.C. 543;

10 (G) 18 U.S.C. 545;

11 (H) 18 U.S.C. 546;

12 (I) 18 U.S.C. 554;

13 (J) 18 U.S.C. 1001;

14 (K) 18 U.S.C. 1341;

15 (L) 18 U.S.C. 1343;

16 (M) 18 U.S.C. 1349;

17 (N) 18 U.S.C. 1956;

18 (O) 18 U.S.C. 1957;

19 (P) 18 U.S.C. 2320; and

20 (Q) 21 U.S.C. 331.

21 For the purposes of this Act, this list does not in-
22 clude violations of national security-related laws and
23 regulations, including the Arms Export Control Act
24 (22 U.S.C. 2771 et seq.), International Emergency
25 Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), Ex-

1 port Control and Reform Act (50 U.S.C. 4801 et
2 seq.), and the Trading with the Enemy Act (50
3 U.S.C. 4305(b)).

4 (3) Participate in basic and advanced training
5 events with Homeland Security Investigations, U.S.
6 Customs and Border Protection, and other Federal
7 agencies and provide technical assistance, where ap-
8 propriate, to Homeland Security Investigations and
9 U.S. Customs and Border Protection and other Fed-
10 eral agencies with respect to the investigation and
11 prosecution of trade-related crimes.

12 (4) Develop multijurisdictional responses and
13 partnerships with respect to trade-related crimes
14 through informational, administrative, and techno-
15 logical support to other Federal agencies and agen-
16 cies of countries that are trading partners of the
17 United States, as a means for such agencies to ac-
18 quire the necessary knowledge, personnel, and spe-
19 cialized equipment to investigate and prosecute
20 trade-related crimes.

21 (5) Participate in nationally coordinated inves-
22 tigations in any case in which the Attorney General
23 determines such participation to be necessary, as
24 permitted by the available resources of the Depart-
25 ment of Justice.

1 (6) Ensure that all components that enforce
2 against trade-related crimes regularly consult with
3 each other.

4 (b) ABSENCE OF EXCLUSION OF PURSUING OTHER
5 REMEDIES.—Litigation by the Criminal Division shall not
6 preclude additional criminal prosecution or civil action
7 against trade-related violations. Nothing in this statute
8 shall prevent the Criminal Division, Civil Division, and
9 other Department of Justice components from pursuing
10 enforcement action where appropriate.

11 **SEC. 5. ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

12 The Attorney General, in consultation with the Sec-
13 retary of Homeland Security, shall submit to the Com-
14 mittee on the Judiciary, Committee on Ways and Means,
15 and Committee on Financial Services of the House of Rep-
16 resentatives, and the Committee on the Judiciary and
17 Committee on Finance of the Senate a report on the work
18 of the Department of Justice with respect to investigation
19 and enforcement of trade-related crimes. Specifically, the
20 report shall—

21 (1) be submitted not later than one year after
22 the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually
23 thereafter, not later than February 1 of each year
24 that begins after the submission of the first report;

1 (2) include annual statistics on the volume of
2 publicly charged trade-related crimes and indict-
3 ments, as defined in section 2;

4 (3) include a summary as to how the funds ap-
5 propriated for trade-related crimes were utilized in
6 the prior reporting period, including staff and oper-
7 ating expenses; and

8 (4) provide an estimate of any additional fund-
9 ing needed to combat trade-related crimes.

10 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

11 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—There are authorized to be appro-
12 priated to the Attorney General \$20,000,000 for fiscal
13 year 2025 to carry out this Act. Of sums appropriated,
14 at least 80 percent shall be used by the Criminal Division
15 to support criminal prosecution of trade crimes as defined
16 in this Act, including salaries and expenses necessary to
17 hire and train investigatory and prosecutorial personnel,
18 develop multijurisdictional and multiagency partnerships,
19 and conduct enforcement actions.

20 (b) **OTHER CRIMINAL PROSECUTION AND CIVIL EN-**
21 **FORCEMENT.**—Remaining sums may be used by the De-
22 partment of Justice to support criminal prosecution of
23 trade crimes by other components and civil enforcement.

1 (c) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—Amounts appro-
2 priated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations
3 under subsection (a) shall remain available until expended.

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