AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 389
OFFERED BY MR. LYNCH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
2 (a) The Act may be cited as the “Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Rewards Act”.

4 SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.
5 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:
6 (1) The Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative (StAR), a World Bank and United Nations anti-money-laundering effort, estimates that between $20 billion to $40 billion has been lost to developing countries annually through corruption.
7 (2) In 2014, more than $480 million in corruption proceeds hidden in bank accounts around the world by former Nigerian dictator Sani Abacha and his co-conspirators was forfeited through efforts by the Department of Justice.
8 (3) In 2010, the Department of Justice established the Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Initiative, to work in partnership with Federal law enforcement
agencies to forfeit the proceeds of foreign official
corruption and, where appropriate, return those pro-
ceeds to benefit the people harmed by these acts of
corruption and abuse of office.

(4) Of the $20 billion to $40 billion lost by de-
veloping countries annually through corruption, only
about $5 billion has been repatriated in the last 15
years.

(5) Governments weakened by corruption and
loss of assets due to corruption have fewer resources
to devote to the fight against terrorism and fewer re-
sources to devote to building strong financial, law
enforcement, and judicial institutions to aid in the
fight against the financing of terrorism.

(6) The United States has a number of effective
programs to reward individuals who provide valuable
information that assist in the identification, arrest,
and conviction of criminal actors and their associ-
ates, as well as seizure and forfeiture of illicitly de-
derived assets and the proceeds of criminal activity.

(7) The Internal Revenue Service has the Whis-
tleblower Program, which pays awards to individuals
who provide specific and credible information to the
IRS if the information results in the collection of
taxes, penalties, interest or other amounts from non-
compliant taxpayers.

(8) The Department of State administers re-
wards programs on international terrorism, illegal
narcotics, and transnational organized crime with
the goal of bringing perpetrators to justice.

(9) None of these existing rewards programs
specifically provide monetary incentives for identi-
fying and recovering stolen assets linked solely to
foreign government corruption, as opposed to crimi-
nal prosecutions or civil or criminal forfeitures.

(10) The recovery of stolen assets linked to for-
egn government corruption and the proceeds of such
corruption may not always involve a BSA violation
or lead to a forfeiture action. In such cases there
would be no ability to pay rewards under existing
Treasury Department authorities.

(11) Foreign government corruption can take
many forms but typically entails government officials
stealing, misappropriating, or illegally diverting as-
sets and funds from their own government treasuries
to enrich their personal wealth directly through em-
bezzlement or bribes to allow government resources
to be expended in ways that are not transparent and
may not either be necessary or be the result of open
competition. Corruption also includes situations where public officials take bribes to allow government resources to be expended in ways which are not transparent and may not be necessary or the result of open competition. These corrupt officials often use the United States and international financial system to hide their stolen assets and the proceeds of corruption.

(12) The individuals who come forward to expose foreign governmental corruption and kleptocracy often do so at great risk to their own safety and that of their immediate family members and face retaliation from persons who exercise foreign political or governmental power. Monetary rewards can provide a necessary incentive to expose such corruption and provide a financial means to provide for their well-being and avoid retribution.

(b) Sense of Congress.—It is the sense of Congress that a Department of the Treasury stolen asset recovery rewards program to help identify and recover stolen assets linked to foreign government corruption and the proceeds of such corruption hidden behind complex financial structures is needed in order to—

(1) intensify the global fight against corruption; and
(2) serve United States efforts to identify and recover such stolen assets, forfeit proceeds of such corruption, and, where appropriate and feasible, return the stolen assets or proceeds thereof to the country harmed by the acts of corruption.

SEC. 3. IN GENERAL.

(a) DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY KLEPTOCRACY ASSET RECOVERY REWARDS PROGRAM.—Chapter 97 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 9706. Department of the Treasury Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Rewards Program

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the Department of the Treasury a program to be known as the ‘Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Rewards Program’ for the payment of rewards to carry out the purposes of this section.

“(2) PURPOSE.—The rewards program shall be designed to support U.S. Government programs and investigations aimed at restraining, seizing, forfeiting, or repatriating stolen assets linked to foreign government corruption and the proceeds of such corruption.
“(3) IMPLEMENTATION.—The rewards program shall be administered by, and at the sole discretion of, the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation, as appropriate, with the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the heads of such other departments and agencies as the Secretary may find appropriate.

“(b) REWARDS AUTHORIZED.—In the sole discretion of the Secretary and in consultation, as appropriate, with the heads of other relevant Federal departments or agencies, the Secretary may pay a reward to any individual, or to any nonprofit humanitarian organization designated by such individual, if that individual furnishes information leading to—

“(1) the restraining or seizure of stolen assets in an account at a U.S. financial institution (including a U.S. branch of a foreign financial institution), that come within the United States, or that come within the possession or control of any United States person;

“(2) the forfeiture of stolen assets in an account at a U.S. financial institution (including a U.S. branch of a foreign financial institution), that come within the United States, or that come within
the possession or control of any United States person; or

“(3) where appropriate, the repatriation of stolen assets in an account at a U.S. financial institution (including a U.S. branch of a foreign financial institution), that come within the United States, or that come within the possession or control of any United States person.

“(e) COORDINATION.—

“(1) PROCEDURES.—To ensure that the payment of rewards pursuant to this section does not duplicate or interfere with any other payment authorized by the Department of Justice or other Federal law enforcement agencies for the obtaining of information or other evidence, the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the heads of such other agencies as the Secretary may find appropriate, shall establish procedures for the offering, administration, and payment of rewards under this section, including procedures for—

“(A) identifying actions with respect to which rewards will be offered;

“(B) the receipt and analysis of data; and
“(C) the payment of rewards and approval
of such payments.

“(2) Prior approval of the Attorney General required.—Before making a reward under
this section in a matter over which there is Federal
criminal jurisdiction, the Secretary of the Treasury
shall obtain the written concurrence of the Attorney
General.

“(d) Payment of rewards.—

“(1) Authorization of appropriations.—
For the purpose of paying rewards pursuant to this
section, there is authorized to be appropriated
$450,000 for fiscal year 2020.

“(2) Limitation on annual payments.—Except as provided under paragraph (3), the total
amount of rewards paid pursuant to this section
may not exceed $25,000,000 in any calendar year.

“(3) Presidential authority.—The President
may waive the limitation under paragraph (2)
with respect to a calendar year if the President pro-
vides written notice of such waiver to the appro-
priate committees of the Congress at least 30 days
before any payment in excess of such limitation is
made pursuant to this section.
“(4) Payment from Stolen Asset Amounts.—In paying any reward under this section with respect to information furnished by an individual, the Secretary shall, to the extent possible, make such payments using the stolen assets recovered based on such information before using appropriated funds authorized under paragraph (1).

“(e) Limitations.—

“(1) Submission of Information.—No award may be made under this section based on information submitted to the Secretary unless such information is submitted under penalty of perjury.

“(2) Maximum Amount.—No reward paid under this section may exceed $5,000,000, unless the Secretary—

“(A) personally authorizes such greater amount in writing;

“(B) determines that offer or payment of a reward of a greater amount is necessary due to the exceptional nature of the case; and

“(C) notifies the appropriate committees of the Congress of such determination.

“(3) Approval.—
“(A) In general.—No reward amount may be paid under this section without the written approval of the Secretary.

“(B) Delegation.—The Secretary may not delegate the approval required under subparagraph (A) to anyone other than an Under Secretary of the Department of the Treasury.

“(4) Protection measures.—If the Secretary determines that the identity of the recipient of a reward or of the members of the recipient’s immediate family must be protected, the Secretary shall take such measures in connection with the payment of the reward as the Secretary considers necessary to effect such protection.

“(5) Forms of reward payment.—The Secretary may make a reward under this section in the form of a monetary payment.

“(f) Ineligibility, reduction in, or denial of reward.—

“(1) Officer and employees.—An officer or employee of any entity of Federal, State, or local government or of a foreign government who, while in the performance of official duties, furnishes information described under subsection (b) shall not be eligible for a reward under this section.
(2) PARTICIPATING INDIVIDUALS.—If the claim for a reward is brought by an individual who the Secretary has a reasonable basis to believe knowingly planned, initiated, directly participated in, or facilitated the actions that led to assets of a foreign state or governmental entity being stolen, misappropriated, or illegally diverted or to the payment of bribes or other foreign governmental corruption, the Secretary shall appropriately reduce, and may deny, such award. If such individual is convicted of criminal conduct arising from the role described in the preceding sentence, the Secretary shall deny or may seek to recover any reward, as the case may be.

(g) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Within 180 days of the enactment of this section, and annually thereafter for 5 years, the Secretary shall issue a report to the appropriate committees of the Congress—

(A) detailing to the greatest extent possible the amount, location, and ownership or beneficial ownership of any stolen assets that, on or after the date of the enactment of this section, come within the United States or that come within the possession or control of any United States person;
“(B) discussing efforts being undertaken to identify more such stolen assets and their owners or beneficial owners; and

“(C) including a discussion of the interactions of the Department of the Treasury with the international financial institutions (as defined in section 1701(c)(2) of the International Financial Institutions Act) to identify the amount, location, and ownership, or beneficial ownership, of stolen assets held in financial institutions outside the United States.

“(2) EXCEPTION FOR ONGOING INVESTIGATIONS.—The report issued under paragraph (1) shall not include information related to ongoing investigations.

“(h) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

“(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF THE CONGRESS.—The term ‘appropriate committees of the Congress’ means the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

“(2) FINANCIAL ASSET.—The term ‘financial asset’ means any funds, investments, or ownership interests, as defined by the Secretary, that on or
after the date of the enactment of this section come
within the United States or that come within the
possession or control of any United States person.

“(3) FOREIGN GOVERNMENT CORRUPTION.—
The term ‘foreign government corruption’ includes
bribery of a foreign public official, or the misappropri-
ation, theft, or embezzlement of public funds or
property by or for the benefit of a foreign public of-
ficial.

“(4) FOREIGN PUBLIC OFFICIAL.—The term
‘foreign public official’ includes any person who oc-
cupies a public office by virtue of having been elect-
ed, appointed, or employed, including any military,
civilian, special, honorary, temporary, or uncompen-
sated official.

“(5) IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER.—The term
‘immediate family member’, with respect to an indi-
vidual, has the meaning given the term ‘member of
the immediate family’ under section 36(k) of the
State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22
U.S.C. 2708(k)).

“(6) REWARDS PROGRAM.—The term ‘rewards
program’ means the program established in sub-
section (a)(1) of this section.
“(7) Secretary.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
the Secretary of the Treasury.

“(8) Stolen assets.—The term ‘stolen assets’
means financial assets within the jurisdiction of the
United States, constituting, derived from, or trace-
able to, any proceeds obtained directly or indirectly
from foreign government corruption.”.

(b) Report on Disposition of Recovered As-
sets.—Within 360 days of the enactment of this Act, the
Secretary of the Treasury shall issue a report to the ap-
propriate committees of Congress (as defined under sec-
tion 9706(i) of title 31, United States Code) describing
policy choices and recommendations for disposition of sto-
len assets recovered pursuant to section 9706 of title 31,
United States Code.

(e) Table of Contents Amendment.—The table
of contents for chapter 97 of title 31, United States Code,
is amended by adding at the end the following:

“9706. Department of the Treasury Kleptocracy Asset Recovery Rewards Pro-
gram.”.