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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To provide for the political affairs authorities of the Department of State,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. SALAZAR introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To provide for the political affairs authorities of the
Department of State, 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 **TITLE III—POLITICAL AFFAIRS**

4 **SEC. 301. UNDER SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There shall be in the Depart-
6 ment an Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs who
7 shall be responsible to the Secretary of State for matters
8 pertaining to regional and bilateral diplomacy, and such

1 other related duties as the Secretary may from time to
2 time designate.

3 (b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—In addition to the respon-
4 sibilities described under subsection (a), the Under Sec-
5 retary for Political Affairs shall maintain continuous ob-
6 servation and coordination of all matters pertaining to the
7 implementation of the foreign policy of the United States,
8 including, as appropriate, supporting the other Under Sec-
9 retaries of State in implementing foreign policy.

10 **SEC. 302. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR PO-**
11 **LITICAL AFFAIRS.**

12 Of the funds authorized to be appropriated to the
13 Secretary of State under section 141, the Under Secretary
14 for Political Affairs shall receive the funds necessary to
15 fulfill the Under Secretary's responsibilities for fiscal
16 years 2026 and 2027.

17 **SEC. 303. CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION REGARDING**
18 **CHANGES TO REGIONAL BUREAU JURISDIC-**
19 **TION.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 15 days before the
21 Under Secretary for Political Affairs alters the geographic
22 or functional jurisdiction of any regional bureau, including
23 by adding or removing countries under the purview of such
24 bureau, the Under Secretary shall submit to the appro-

1 priate congressional committees a notification of such
2 change, including—

3 (1) a justification for such change; and

4 (2) a description of the expected operational,
5 programmatic, or policy implications for any bureau
6 affected by such change.

7 (b) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES
8 DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate con-
9 gressional committees” means—

10 (1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the
11 Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-
12 resentatives; and

13 (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and
14 the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

15 **SEC. 304. AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE FOR THE ARCTIC.**

16 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There shall be in the Depart-
17 ment an Ambassador-at-Large for the Arctic who shall be
18 responsible to the Under Secretary for Political Affairs for
19 matters pertaining to the Arctic region, and such other
20 related duties as such Under Secretary may from time to
21 time designate.

22 (b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—In addition to the respon-
23 sibilities described under subsection (a), the Ambassador-
24 at-Large for the Arctic shall maintain continuous observa-

tion and coordination of all matters pertaining to the Arctic region in the conduct of foreign policy, including—

- (1) energy exploration and development;
- (2) environmental conservation;
- (3) trade and economic development; and
- (4) infrastructure development and maintenance.

SEC. 305. AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE FOR THE INDIAN OCEAN REGION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is authorized to be in the Department an Ambassador-at-Large for the Indian Ocean Region who shall be responsible to the Under Secretary for Political Affairs for matters pertaining to the Indian Ocean region, and such other related duties as the Secretary may from time to time designate.

(b) APPOINTMENT.—Not later than April 1, 2026, the President shall nominate an individual, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to serve as the Ambassador-at-Large for the Indian Ocean Region, who shall report directly to the Under Secretary for Political Affairs.

(c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The primary responsibilities of the Ambassador shall be to—

1 (A) ensure harmonization and continuity of
2 United States diplomatic efforts and assistance
3 programs across Indian Ocean region countries;

4 (B) identify the diplomatic, military, eco-
5 nomic, and development lines of effort that are
6 of greatest United States strategic interest in
7 Indian Ocean region countries and reinforce
8 United States diplomatic and interagency en-
9 gagement with respect to such lines of effort;
10 and

11 (C) perform such other duties as the
12 Under Secretary for Political Affairs may from
13 time to time designate.

14 (2) DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION.—Subject to
15 the direction of the President and the Secretary, the
16 Ambassador is authorized to represent the United
17 States in matters and cases relevant to advancing
18 United States strategic interests and foreign policy
19 objectives across Indian Ocean region countries in—

20 (A) contacts with regional governments,
21 intergovernmental organizations, specialized
22 agencies of the United Nations, the Indian
23 Ocean Rim Association, and other international
24 organizations concerning Indian Ocean region
25 countries of which the United States is a mem-

1 ber or which the Secretary of State may des-
2 ignate;

3 (B) multilateral conferences and meetings
4 relevant to Indian Ocean region countries; and

5 (C) contacts with nongovernmental organi-
6 zations that influence United States interests in
7 Indian Ocean region countries.

8 (3) COORDINATION OF RESPONSIBILITIES.—In
9 order to advance United States interests across In-
10 dian Ocean region countries, the Ambassador—

11 (A) shall coordinate efforts to advance
12 United States strategic interests in Indian
13 Ocean region countries within the Department
14 of State, including between the Assistant Sec-
15 retary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, the
16 Assistant Secretary for South and Central
17 Asian Affairs, the Assistant Secretary for Near
18 Eastern Affairs, and the Assistant Secretary for
19 African Affairs; and

20 (B) should participate in any interagency
21 process described in paragraph (1)(B).

22 **SEC. 306. ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR EAST ASIAN AND PA-**
23 **CIFIC AFFAIRS.**

24 There is authorized to be in the Department an As-
25 sistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs who

1 shall be responsible to the Under Secretary for Political
2 Affairs for matters pertaining to East Asia and the Pa-
3 cific, and such other related duties as the Secretary may
4 from time to time designate.

5 **SEC. 307. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR EAST**
6 **ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS.**

7 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Of the
8 funds authorized to be appropriated to the Under Sec-
9 retary for Political Affairs under section 302, the Assist-
10 ant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs shall re-
11 ceive the funds necessary to fulfill Bureau functions and
12 the Assistant Secretary's responsibilities for fiscal years
13 2026 and 2027.

14 (b) ADMINISTRATION OF ACCOUNTS.—The Assistant
15 Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs shall direct,
16 oversee, and otherwise exercise responsibility of funds
17 made available for the Countering People's Republic of
18 China Influence Fund.

19 **SEC. 308. BUREAU OF EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS.**

20 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of State shall
21 establish a Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs,
22 which shall perform such functions related to implementa-
23 tion of United States foreign policy and assistance to East
24 Asia and the Pacific as the Under Secretary for Political
25 Affairs may prescribe.

1 (b) HEAD OF BUREAU.—The Assistant Secretary for
2 East Asian and Pacific Affairs shall be the head of the
3 Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs.

4 (c) EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC DEFINED.—In this
5 Act, “East Asia and the Pacific” means any country which
6 the Under Secretary designates as within the responsi-
7 bility of the Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pa-
8 cific Affairs.

9 **SEC. 309. COUNTERING PRC INFLUENCE FUND UNIT.**

10 (a) COUNTERING PRC INFLUENCE FUND UNIT.—
11 The Secretary of State may establish and maintain a
12 Countering the PRC Influence Fund Unit (hereinafter re-
13 ferred to as the “CPIF Unit”), within the Bureau of East
14 Asian and Pacific Affairs.

15 (b) PERSONNEL.—

16 (1) COMPOSITION.—The CPIF Unit may be
17 comprised of a Director, Deputy Director, and addi-
18 tional staff as appropriate, including a Budget Ana-
19 lyst, a Grant Officer, a Program Assistant, and a
20 Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Specialist.

21 (2) STAFFING.—The CPIF Unit shall be com-
22 prised of personnel with expertise or experience in
23 performing the following functions:

24 (A) Grants Officer.

25 (B) Program Assistant.

1 (C) Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning
2 Specialist.

3 (3) DIRECTOR.—The Director of the CPIF
4 Unit shall fulfill the following responsibilities:

5 (A) Identify specific strategic priorities for
6 CPIF consistent with United States national se-
7 curity priorities.

8 (B) Coordinate, select, and approve all
9 CPIF programming, based on criteria that the
10 program directly counters malign activities by
11 China or provides United States alternatives to
12 such activities.

13 (C) Ensure that all CPIF programming
14 advances United States foreign policy and inter-
15 ests.

16 (D) Conduct oversight, monitoring, and
17 evaluation of the effectiveness of all CPIF pro-
18 gramming to ensure that it advances United
19 States interests and degrades the ability of
20 China or entities acting on the behalf of China
21 to conduct malign influence operations.

22 (E) Ensure, to the maximum extent prac-
23 ticable, that all CPIF programming is carried
24 out in coordination with other Federal activities
25 to counter PRC malign influence.

1 (4) DEPUTY DIRECTOR.—The Deputy Director
2 of the CPIF Unit may have responsibility for policy
3 and programming to assist the Director, particularly
4 with respect to CPIF Unit activities handled by
5 other United States agencies.

6 (c) MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND LEARNING AC-
7 TIVITIES.—The Director may—

8 (1) direct monitoring, evaluation, and learning
9 activities to maximize government efficiency and re-
10 duce the risks of fraud and waste;

11 (2) conduct regular research and evaluation of
12 CPIF programs and activities to improve ongoing
13 and future activities; and

14 (3) make available to Congress the findings of
15 any research or evaluation conducted under para-
16 graph (2).

17 (d) PRC MALIGN INFLUENCE DEFINED.—In this
18 section, the term “PRC malign influence” means influence
19 by China or an entity acting on the behalf of China that—

20 (1) undermines a free and open international
21 order;

22 (2) utilizes coercion and dependency to advance
23 the strategic objectives of the People’s Republic of
24 China;

1 (3) undermines the national security, territorial
2 integrity, or sovereignty of the United States or
3 other country; or

4 (4) undermines the political and economic secu-
5 rity of the United States or other country, including
6 by promoting corruption or elite capture, distorting
7 markets, and advancing coercive economic practices,
8 including theft of intellectual property.

9 (e) TERMINATION.—A CPIF Unit established under
10 this section shall terminate 2 years after the date of the
11 enactment of this Act.

12 **SEC. 310. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AFRICAN**
13 **AFFAIRS.**

14 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is authorized to be in
15 the Department an Assistant Secretary for African Affairs
16 who shall be responsible to the Under Secretary for Polit-
17 ical Affairs for matters pertaining to Africa, and such
18 other related duties as the Secretary may from time to
19 time designate.

20 (b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—In addition to the respon-
21 sibilities described under subsection (a), the Assistant Sec-
22 retary for African Affairs shall maintain continuous obser-
23 vation and coordination of all matters pertaining to imple-
24 mentation of United States foreign policy in Africa.

1 **SEC. 311. ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR NEAR EASTERN AF-**
2 **FAIRS.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is authorized to be in
4 the Department an Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern
5 Affairs who shall be responsible to the Under Secretary
6 for Political Affairs for matters pertaining to the Middle
7 East and North Africa, and such other related duties as
8 the Secretary may from time to time designate.

9 (b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—In addition to the respon-
10 sibilities described under subsection (a), the Assistant Sec-
11 retary for Near Eastern Affairs shall maintain continuous
12 observation and coordination of all matters pertaining to
13 implementation of American foreign policy in the Middle
14 East and North Africa.

15 **SEC. 312. ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SOUTH AND CEN-**
16 **TRAL ASIAN AFFAIRS.**

17 There is authorized to be in the Department an As-
18 sistant Secretary for South and Central Asian Affairs who
19 shall be responsible to the Under Secretary for Political
20 Affairs for matters pertaining to South and Central Asia,
21 and such other related duties as the Secretary may from
22 time to time designate.

23 **SEC. 313. UNITED STATES CODE CLASSIFICATION.**

24 The Office of Law Revision Counsel shall—

1 (1) utilize sections 67 through 97 of title 22,
2 United States Code, to classify the sections of this
3 title; and

4 (2) maintain the legislative history, under edi-
5 torial notes, of repealed law which previously occu-
6 pied the corresponding sections of the United States
7 Code.