

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5246

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 10, 2025

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

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
9 other related duties as the Secretary may from time to
10 time designate.

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

8 **SEC. 302. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR PO-**
9 **LITICAL AFFAIRS.**

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

15 **SEC. 303. CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION REGARDING**
16 **CHANGES TO REGIONAL BUREAU JURISDIC-**
17 **TION.**

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

25 (1) a justification for such change; and

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

4 (b) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES
5 DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate con-
6 gressional committees” means—

7 (1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the
8 Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-
9 resentatives; and

10 (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and
11 the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

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

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

19 (b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—In addition to the respon-
20 sibilities described under subsection (a), the Ambassador-
21 at-Large for the Arctic shall maintain continuous observa-
22 tion and coordination of all matters pertaining to the Arc-
23 tic region in the conduct of foreign policy, including—

24 (1) energy exploration and development;

25 (2) environmental conservation;

1 (3) trade and economic development; and

2 (4) infrastructure development and maintenance.
3

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

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

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

17 (c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—

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

20 (A) ensure harmonization and continuity of
21 United States diplomatic efforts and assistance
22 programs across Indian Ocean region countries;

23 (B) identify the diplomatic, military, eco-
24 nomic, and development lines of effort that are
25 of greatest United States strategic interest in

1 Indian Ocean region countries and reinforce
2 United States diplomatic and interagency en-
3 gagement with respect to such lines of effort;
4 and

5 (C) perform such other duties as the
6 Under Secretary for Political Affairs may from
7 time to time designate.

8 (2) DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION.—Subject to
9 the direction of the President and the Secretary, the
10 Ambassador is authorized to represent the United
11 States in matters and cases relevant to advancing
12 United States strategic interests and foreign policy
13 objectives across Indian Ocean region countries in—

14 (A) contacts with regional governments,
15 intergovernmental organizations, specialized
16 agencies of the United Nations, the Indian
17 Ocean Rim Association, and other international
18 organizations concerning Indian Ocean region
19 countries of which the United States is a mem-
20 ber or which the Secretary of State may des-
21 ignate;

22 (B) multilateral conferences and meetings
23 relevant to Indian Ocean region countries; and

1 (C) contacts with nongovernmental organi-
2 zations that influence United States interests in
3 Indian Ocean region countries.

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

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

16 (B) should participate in any interagency
17 process described in paragraph (1)(B).

18 **SEC. 306. ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR EAST ASIAN AND PA-**
19 **CIFIC AFFAIRS.**

20 There is authorized to be in the Department an As-
21 sistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs who
22 shall be responsible to the Under Secretary for Political
23 Affairs for matters pertaining to East Asia and the Pa-
24 cific, and such other related duties as the Secretary may
25 from time to time designate.

1 SEC. 307. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR EAST
2 ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS.

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

10 (b) ADMINISTRATION OF ACCOUNTS.—The Assistant
11 Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs shall direct,
12 oversee, and otherwise exercise responsibility of funds
13 made available for the Countering People’s Republic of
14 China Influence Fund.

15 SEC. 308. BUREAU OF EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS.

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

22 (b) HEAD OF BUREAU.—The Assistant Secretary for
23 East Asian and Pacific Affairs shall be the head of the
24 Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs.

25 (c) EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC DEFINED.—In this
26 Act, “East Asia and the Pacific” means any country which

1 the Under Secretary designates as within the responsi-
2 bility of the Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pa-
3 cific Affairs.

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

5 (a) COUNTERING PRC INFLUENCE FUND UNIT.—

6 The Secretary of State may establish and maintain a
7 Countering the PRC Influence Fund Unit (hereinafter re-
8 ferred to as the “CPIF Unit”), within the Bureau of East
9 Asian and Pacific Affairs.

10 (b) PERSONNEL.—

11 (1) COMPOSITION.—The CPIF Unit may be
12 comprised of a Director, Deputy Director, and addi-
13 tional staff as appropriate, including a Budget Ana-
14 lyst, a Grant Officer, a Program Assistant, and a
15 Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning Specialist.

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

19 (A) Grants Officer.

20 (B) Program Assistant.

21 (C) Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning
22 Specialist.

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

1 (A) Identify specific strategic priorities for
2 CPIF consistent with United States national se-
3 curity priorities.

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

9 (C) Ensure that all CPIF programming
10 advances United States foreign policy and inter-
11 ests.

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

18 (E) Ensure, to the maximum extent prac-
19 ticable, that all CPIF programming is carried
20 out in coordination with other Federal activities
21 to counter PRC malign influence.

22 (4) DEPUTY DIRECTOR.—The Deputy Director
23 of the CPIF Unit may have responsibility for policy
24 and programming to assist the Director, particularly

1 with respect to CPIF Unit activities handled by
2 other United States agencies.

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

5 (1) direct monitoring, evaluation, and learning
6 activities to maximize government efficiency and re-
7 duce the risks of fraud and waste;

8 (2) conduct regular research and evaluation of
9 CPIF programs and activities to improve ongoing
10 and future activities; and

11 (3) make available to Congress the findings of
12 any research or evaluation conducted under para-
13 graph (2).

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

17 (1) undermines a free and open international
18 order;

19 (2) utilizes coercion and dependency to advance
20 the strategic objectives of the People’s Republic of
21 China;

22 (3) undermines the national security, territorial
23 integrity, or sovereignty of the United States or
24 other country; or

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

6 (e) TERMINATION.—A CPIF Unit established under
7 this section shall terminate 2 years after the date of the
8 enactment of this Act.

9 **SEC. 310. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR AFRICAN**
10 **AFFAIRS.**

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

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

22 **SEC. 311. ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR NEAR EASTERN AF-**
23 **FAIRS.**

24 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is authorized to be in
25 the Department an Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern

1 Affairs who shall be responsible to the Under Secretary
2 for Political Affairs for matters pertaining to the Middle
3 East and North Africa, and such other related duties as
4 the Secretary may from time to time designate.

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

11 **SEC. 312. ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR SOUTH AND CEN-**
12 **TRAL ASIAN AFFAIRS.**

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

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

20 The Office of Law Revision Counsel shall—

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

24 (2) maintain the legislative history, under edi-
25 torial notes, of repealed law which previously occu-

- 1 pied the corresponding sections of the United States
- 2 Code.

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