

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 5251

To provide for the public diplomacy authorities of the Department of State,  
and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 10, 2025

Mr. HUIZENGA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## A BILL

To provide for the public diplomacy 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 VII—PUBLIC DIPLOMACY**

4 **Subtitle A—Under Secretary for**  
5 **Public Diplomacy**

6 **SEC. 701. UNDER SECRETARY FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There shall be in the Depart-  
8 ment an Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy who shall  
9 be responsible to the Secretary of State for matters per-  
10 taining to global public diplomacy, information operations

1 targeting foreign audiences, strategic communications and  
2 information, international educational and cultural ex-  
3 change programs, and such other duties as the Secretary  
4 may from time to time designate.

5 (b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—In addition to the respon-  
6 sibilities described under subsection (a), the Under Sec-  
7 retary for Public Diplomacy shall oversee and coordinate  
8 all matters pertaining to global public diplomacy and for-  
9 eign information operations, including, as appropriate—

10 (1) leading and directing all information and  
11 public diplomacy activities targeted at foreign audi-  
12 ences, communicating United States policy to for-  
13 eign audiences, documenting and exposing the ma-  
14 lign actions of foreign adversaries, ensuring global  
15 access to free information, and countering foreign  
16 censorship;

17 (2) preparing and leading implementation of an  
18 annual strategic plan for public diplomacy in col-  
19 laboration with regional and functional bureaus and  
20 overseas posts and in consultation with relevant na-  
21 tional security agencies;

22 (3) ensuring public diplomacy programs are as-  
23 sessed using effective and appropriate evaluation  
24 methods;

1           (4) overseeing and directing Department per-  
2           sonnel in the United States and abroad who conduct  
3           or implement public diplomacy policies, programs,  
4           and activities;

5           (5) assisting United States-funded media to  
6           present the policies of the United States clearly and  
7           effectively;

8           (6) submitting statements of United States pol-  
9           icy and editorial material to the United States-fund-  
10          ed media;

11          (7) allocating and managing the financial and  
12          human resources for all public diplomacy functions  
13          within the Department of State, including for—

14                (A) the Bureau of Educational and Cul-  
15                tural Affairs;

16                (B) the Bureau of Strategic Communica-  
17                tions; and

18                (C) the public diplomacy functions within  
19                the regional and functional bureaus;

20          (8) establishing and overseeing a regional public  
21          diplomacy team for each region, each of which  
22          shall—

23                (A) integrate all public diplomacy pro-  
24                gramming and operations of the Department;

1 (B) implement such programming and op-  
2 erations in the region of such team; and

3 (C) be responsible for—

4 (i) operationalizing the Department's  
5 public diplomacy strategy in the region of  
6 such team;

7 (ii) enabling region-specific execution  
8 of such strategy; and

9 (iii) maintaining coherence with a uni-  
10 fied United States strategy and over-  
11 arching global objectives of the Depart-  
12 ment;

13 (9) serving as Chair of interagency meetings on  
14 public diplomacy to align messaging across the De-  
15 partment of Defense, Department of State, Depart-  
16 ment of Commerce, Department of the Treasury, the  
17 intelligence community, and members of the Group  
18 of Seven; and

19 (10) performing such other duties as the Sec-  
20 retary may from time to time designate.

21 **SECTION 702. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR**  
22 **PUBLIC DIPLOMACY.**

23 Of the funds authorized to be appropriated to the  
24 Secretary of State under section 141, the Under Secretary  
25 for Public Diplomacy shall receive the funds necessary to

1 fulfill missions and responsibilities for fiscal years 2026  
2 and 2027.

3           **Subtitle B—Educational and**  
4                           **Cultural Affairs**

5   **SEC. 711. ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR EDUCATIONAL AND**  
6                           **CULTURAL AFFAIRS.**

7           (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There shall be in the Depart-  
8   ment an Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural  
9   Affairs who shall be responsible to the Under Secretary  
10   for Public Diplomacy for matters pertaining to the devel-  
11   opment, implementation, and oversight of all educational,  
12   cultural, and professional exchange programs, as well as  
13   related initiatives and activities, and such other related  
14   duties as the Secretary may from time to time designate.

15          (b) **RESPONSIBILITIES.**—In addition to the respon-  
16   sibilities described under subsection (a), the Assistant Sec-  
17   retary for Educational and Cultural Affairs shall be re-  
18   sponsible for matters pertaining to academic, cultural, and  
19   professional exchanges in the conduct of foreign policy, in-  
20   cluding, as appropriate—

21               (1) administering programs for youth and stu-  
22               dents, young leaders, established leaders, cultural  
23               elites, members of the press, and influencers, includ-  
24               ing the programs described in section 112 of the

1 Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of  
2 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2460);

3 (2) integrating all exchange programming into  
4 global public diplomacy planning;

5 (3) identifying regional priorities;

6 (4) reducing overhead and administrative  
7 spending costs for programs;

8 (5) consolidating support services for programs;

9 (6) expanding cost-sharing partnerships with  
10 the private and nonprofit sectors;

11 (7) ensuring clear foreign policy outcomes and  
12 performance; and

13 (8) performing such other duties as the Under  
14 Secretary for Public Diplomacy may from time to  
15 time designate.

16 **SEC. 712. BUREAU OF EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL AF-**  
17 **FAIRS.**

18 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary of State shall  
19 maintain the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs  
20 described in section 112 of the Mutual Educational and  
21 Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2460), which  
22 shall perform functions related to academic, cultural, and  
23 professional exchanges as the Under Secretary for Public  
24 Diplomacy may prescribe.

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

4 SEC. 713. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR EDU-  
5 CATIONAL AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS.

6 Of the funds authorized to be appropriated to the  
7 Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy under section 702,  
8 the Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Af-  
9 fairs shall receive the funds necessary to fulfill Bureau  
10 functions and the Assistant Secretary's responsibilities for  
11 fiscal years 2026 and 2027.

12 **Subtitle C—Strategic**  
13 **Communications**

14 SEC. 721. ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR STRATEGIC COMMU-  
15 NICATIONS.

16 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is authorized to be in  
17 the Department an Assistant Secretary for Strategic Com-  
18 munications who shall be responsible to the Under Sec-  
19 retary for Public Diplomacy for matters pertaining to  
20 strategic communication, global access to free information,  
21 countering foreign censorship efforts, and such other re-  
22 lated duties as the Secretary may from time to time des-  
23 ignate.

24 (b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—In addition to the respon-  
25 sibilities described under subsection (a), the Assistant Sec-

1   retary for Strategic Communications shall oversee and co-  
2   ordinate all matters pertaining to foreign policy messaging  
3   in the conduct of foreign policy, including, as appro-  
4   priate—

5           (1) overseeing foreign-facing information oper-  
6           ations;

7           (2) managing regional content operations and  
8           media relations;

9           (3) overseeing and providing strategic direction  
10          for all United States Government funded media enti-  
11          ties;

12          (4) establishing and overseeing an Office of  
13          Global Distribution and News Services that shall—

14                (A) create and lead the open-content wire  
15                service; and

16                (B) manage translation and distribution of  
17          United States Government content;

18          (5) supporting investigative and independent  
19          media;

20          (6) advocating for internet freedom;

21          (7) advancing circumvention and access tools;

22          (8) opposing censorship by foreign govern-  
23          ments;

24          (9) leading diplomatic engagements on informa-  
25          tion freedom; and



1           (10) performing such other duties as the Under  
2       Secretary for Public Diplomacy may from time to  
3       time designate.

4       (c) APPOINTMENTS.—

5           (1) FIRST APPOINTMENT.—The individual serv-  
6       ing as the Assistant Secretary for Global Public Af-  
7       fairs on the day immediately prior to the date of the  
8       enactment of this Act shall be the Assistant Sec-  
9       retary for Strategic Communications on and after  
10      the date of the enactment of this Act, until such in-  
11      dividual vacates or is removed from such position.

12          (2) SUBSEQUENT APPOINTMENTS.—Any ap-  
13      pointment of an individual to the position of Assist-  
14      ant Secretary for Strategic Communications subse-  
15      quent to the term of the individual described in  
16      paragraph (1) shall be subject to the advice and con-  
17      sent of the Senate.

18   **SEC. 722. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR STRA-**  
19                           **TEGIC COMMUNICATIONS.**

20      Of the funds authorized to be appropriated to the  
21   Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy under section 702,  
22   the Assistant Secretary for Strategic Communications  
23   shall receive the funds necessary to fulfill Bureau func-  
24   tions and the Assistant Secretary's responsibilities for fis-  
25   cal years 2026 and 2027.

1 SEC. 723. REPEAL OF LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR  
2 INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITIONS.

3 Section 204 of the Admiral James W. Nance and  
4 Meg Donovan Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal  
5 Years 2000 and 2001 (22 U.S.C. 2452b) is repealed.

6 **Subtitle D—United States Code**  
7 **Classification**

8 SEC. 731. UNITED STATES CODE CLASSIFICATION.

9 The Office of Law Revision Counsel shall—

10 (1) reclassify sections 211a through 214a,  
11 217a, and 218 of title 22, United States Code, as  
12 sections 244 through 254 of title 22, United States  
13 Code;

14 (2) utilize sections 191 through 221 of title 22,  
15 United States Code, to classify the sections of this  
16 title; and

17 (3) maintain the legislative history, under edi-  
18 torial notes, of repealed and reclassified law which  
19 previously occupied the corresponding sections of  
20 United States Code.

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