

Legislative BulletinMay 9, 2012

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H.R. 4133 - United States-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act of 2012

**United States-Israel Enhanced Security Cooperation Act of 2012
(Cantor, R-VA)**

Order of Business: H.R. 4133 is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, May 09, 2012, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the legislation.

Summary: The legislation states it is the policy of the United States:

- “To reaffirm the enduring commitment of the United States to the security of the State of Israel as a Jewish state. As President Obama stated on December 16, 2011, ‘America’s commitment and my commitment to Israel and Israel’s security is unshakeable.’ And as President Bush stated before the Knesset on the 60th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel on May 15, 2008, ‘The alliance between our governments is unbreakable, yet the source of our friendship runs deeper than any treaty.’
- “To provide Israel the military capabilities necessary to deter and defend itself by itself against any threats.
- “To veto any one-sided anti-Israel resolutions at the United Nations Security Council.
- “To support Israel’s inherent right to self-defense.
- “To pursue avenues to expand cooperation with Israel in both defense and across the spectrum of civilian sectors, including high technology, agriculture, medicine, health, pharmaceuticals, and energy.
- “To assist Israel with its on-going efforts to forge a peaceful, negotiated settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that results in two states living side by side in peace and security, and to encourage Israel’s neighbors to recognize Israel’s right to exist as a Jewish state.”

The legislation also states that the United States should take the following actions to assist in the defense of Israel:

1. “Provide Israel such support as may be necessary to increase development and production of joint missile defense systems, particularly such systems that defend the urgent threat posed to Israel and United States forces in the region.

2. "Provide Israel defense articles and defense services through such mechanisms as appropriate, to include air refueling tankers, missile defense capabilities, and specialized munitions.
3. "Allocate additional weaponry and munitions for the forward-deployed United States stockpile in Israel.
4. "Provide Israel additional surplus defense articles and defense services, as appropriate, in the wake of the withdrawal of United States forces from Iraq.
5. "Strengthen efforts to prevent weapons smuggling into Gaza pursuant to the 2005 Agreement on Movement and Access following the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and to protect against weapons smuggling and terrorist threats from the Sinai Peninsula.
6. "Offer the Israeli Air Force additional training and exercise opportunities in the United States to compensate for Israel's limited air space.
7. "Expand Israel's authority to make purchases under the Foreign Military Financing program on a commercial basis.
8. "Seek to enhance the capabilities of the United States and Israel to address emerging common threats, increase security cooperation, and expand joint military exercises.
9. "Encourage an expanded role for Israel within the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), including an enhanced presence at NATO headquarters and exercises.
10. "Support extension of the long-standing loan guarantee program for Israel, recognizing Israel's unbroken record of repaying its loans on time and in full.
11. "Expand already-close intelligence cooperation, including satellite intelligence, with Israel."

H.R. 4133 requires the President to submit several reports to the House Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and Foreign Affairs, as well as the Senate Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and Foreign Relations. These reports are due within 180 days after enactment.

The legislation also states that it is U.S. policy to help Israel preserve its qualitative military edge and further develop advanced technology programs between the United States and Israel. The legislation requires a report from the President, within 180 days, on the status of Israel's qualitative military edge.

H.R. 4133 also requires a report on Israel's need for F-35 aircraft. The report will detail actions to improve the process relating to Israel's purchase of F-35 aircraft to improve cost efficiency and timely delivery.

Another report will detail efforts to expand cooperation between the United States and Israel in homeland security, counter-terrorism, maritime security, energy, cybersecurity, and other appropriate areas.

H.R. 4133 also requires a report detailing actions to integrate Israel into the defense of the Eastern Mediterranean.

Committee Action: H.R. 4133 was introduced on March 5, 2012, and was referred to the House Foreign Affairs Committee, which took no public action.

Administration Position: No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

Cost to Taxpayers: A report from CBO is unavailable.

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: The legislation contains no earmarks.

Constitutional Authority: According the sponsor, “Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Congress has the authority to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8, clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution, the power to “regulate Commerce with foreign Nations” and pursuant to Article I, Section 8, clause 1, the power to “provide for the common Defence.” Rep. Cantor’s statement can be [viewed here](#).

RSC Staff Contact: Curtis Rhyne, Curtis.Rhyne@mail.house.gov, (202) 226-8576.