



**THE REPUBLICAN
STUDY COMMITTEE**

LIBERTY. OPPORTUNITY. SECURITY.
MARK WALKER, CHAIRMAN

1. [H.Res. 1091 - Calling on the Government of Burma to release Burmese journalists Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo sentenced to seven years imprisonment after investigating attacks against civilians by Burma's military and security forces, and for other purposes, as amended](#)
2. [Concurring in the Senate Amendment to H.R. 2454 - Department of Homeland Security Data Framework Act of 2017, as amended](#)
3. [House Amendment to S. 2736 - Asia Reassurance Initiative Act of 2018](#)

H. Res. 1091 – Calling on the Government of Burma to release Burmese journalists Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo sentenced to seven years imprisonment after investigating attacks against civilians by Burma's military and security forces, and for other purposes (Chabot, R-OH)

FLOOR SCHEDULE: December 11, 2018, under a suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY: [H. Res. 1091](#) would call on the Government of Burma to release Burmese journalists Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo sentenced to seven years imprisonment after investigating attacks against civilians by Burma's military and security forces.

COST: A Congressional Budget Office (CBO) cost estimate is not required for resolutions.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

[H. Res. 1091](#) would call on the Government of Burma to release Burmese journalists Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo sentenced to seven years imprisonment after investigating attacks against civilians by Burma's military and security forces.

This resolution would outline the humanitarian crisis propagated by the Government of Burma.

This resolution would provide the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the atrocities committed against the Rohingya by the Burmese government and military. This resolution would provide suggestions to the Secretary of State on how to address the crisis, as well additional sanctions the President should apply.

COMMITTEE ACTION: This resolution was introduced on September 27, 2018, and was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION: No stated Administration position available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY: Constitutional Authority Statements are not required for House Resolutions.

Senate Amendment to H.R. 2454 - Department of Homeland Security Data Framework Act of 2017, as (Rep. Hurd, R-TX)

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on December 12, 2018, under a suspension of the rules which requires a 2/3 majority for final passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

The [Senate Amendment to H.R. 2454](#) would direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a data framework to integrate existing Department of Homeland Security datasets and systems to provide access for appropriate personnel to law enforcement and other Departmental information.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is not yet available.

Rule 28(a)(1) of the Rules of the Republican Conference prohibit measures from being scheduled for consideration under suspension of the rules without an accompanying cost estimate. Rule 28(b) provides that the cost estimate requirement may be waived by a majority of the Elected Leadership.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

The Senate Amendment to H.R. 2454 would direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a data framework to integrate existing Department of Homeland Security datasets and systems granting access by authorized personnel in a manner consistent with relevant legal authorities and privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties policies and protections.

The Secretary of Homeland Security would ensure that the data framework remain accessible to employees of the Department of Homeland Security who the Secretary determines have an appropriate security clearance, are assigned to perform a function that requires access to information in such framework and are trained in applicable standards for safeguarding and using the information. The Secretary of Homeland Security would be required to issue guidance for Department employees authorized to access and contribute to the data framework.

The Secretary of Homeland Security would be authorized to exclude from the data framework information that could: jeopardize the protection of sources, methods, or activities; (2) compromise a criminal or national security investigation; (3) be inconsistent with the other federal laws or regulations; or (4) be duplicative or not serve an operational purpose if included in such framework.

The Senate Amendment would add a provision that would require the Secretary of Homeland Security to annually brief Congress on the required component use of the data framework in support of operations countering terrorist activities and incidents in the United States.

The past legislative bulletin can be found [here](#).

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 2454 was introduced on May 16, 2017, and was referred to the House Committee on Homeland Security. On [May 18, 2017](#), the bill was ordered to be reported by voice vote by the committee. H.R. 2454 passed the House by voice vote on September 12, 2017.

The Senate passed an amended version by unanimous consent on December 6, 2018.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

S. 2736 – Asia Reassurance Initiative Act of 2018 (Sen. Gardner, R-CO)

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration December 12, 2018, under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY: [S. 2736](#) would aim to develop a long-term strategic vision and a comprehensive, multifaceted, and principled United States policy for the Indo-Pacific region.

COST:

According to the [Congressional Budget Office](#), enactment of this legislation would cost \$6.6 billion over the 2019-2023 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized and estimated amounts. The remainder would be spent after 2023.

Enactment of S. 2736 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

Some conservatives may be concerned that certain provisions of the bill would violate the [Majority Leader's Protocol](#) prohibiting "such sums" authorizations.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

[S. 2736](#) would aim to develop a long-term strategic vision and a comprehensive, multifaceted, and principled United States policy for the Indo-Pacific region.

TITLE I—UNITED STATES POLICY AND DIPLOMATIC STRATEGY IN THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION

This title would outline the policy of the United States in the Indo-Pacific region.

This title would set a diplomatic strategy for the United States to implement a long-term United States policy in the Indo-Pacific region.

TITLE II—PROMOTING UNITED STATES SECURITY INTERESTS IN THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION

Sec. 201. Authorization of appropriations.

This section would authorize \$1.5 billion for each of the fiscal years 2019 through 2023 for the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. agency for International Development, and the U.S. Department of Defense.

This section outlines the uses for such appropriated funds, including certain exceptions.

Sec. 202. Treaty alliances in the Indo-Pacific region.

This section would reaffirm the United States commitment to our bilateral defense treaty allies in the Asia-Pacific region, including: Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, and Thailand.

Sec. 203. United States-China relationship.

This section would state the United States Government's concern(s) with specific Chinese actions regarding their domestic and foreign policy. This section would also encourage the Chinese Government to demonstrate it will respect international rules and norms.

Sec. 204. United States-India strategic partnership.

This section would recognize the role of the strategic partnership between the United States and India in promoting peace and security in the Indo-Pacific region. Additionally, this section would call for the strengthening and broadening of diplomatic, economic, and security ties between the United States and India.

Sec. 205. United States-ASEAN strategic partnership.

This section would express the Sense of Congress of support and affirmation of the elevation of the United States-ASEAN relationship to a strategic partnership.

This section would require reporting to Congress on strategic framework for engagement with ASEAN.

Sec. 206. United States-Republic of Korea-Japan trilateral security partnership.

This section would express the Sense of Congress to support trilateral security cooperation between the United States, the Republic of Korea, and Japan.

Sec. 207. Quadrilateral security dialogue.

This section would express the Sense of Congress to support the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue between the United States, Australia, India, and Japan.

Sec. 208. Enhanced security partnerships in Southeast Asia.

This section would express the United States commitment to the enhanced security partnerships with Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Vietnam.

Sec. 209. Commitment to Taiwan.

This section would express the policy of the United States to Taiwan, including economic, political, and security, and to enforce all existing commitments to Taiwan.

This section would encourage arms sales to Taiwan, as well as high-level diplomatic visits to Taiwan.

Sec. 210. North Korea strategy.

This section would describe the policy of the United States to North Korea, and the implementation of Sanctions against the Kim regime.

This section would require reporting to Congress on the activities of the government of North Korea, as well as reporting to Congress on strategies to address potential threats from the regime.

Sec. 211. New Zealand.

This section would express the United States Government's commitment to strengthening the diplomatic, economic, and the security relationship with New Zealand.

Sec. 212. The Pacific Islands.

This section would express the Sense of Congress that the United States should support strong engagement with nations of the South Pacific, including Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, the Federates States of Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

Sec. 213. Freedom of navigation and overflight; promotion of international law.

This section would establish the policy of the United States to conduct regular freedom of navigation and overflight operations in the East China Sea and South China Sea, in accordance with international law, and to promote multilateral negotiations to peacefully resolve maritime disputes in the South China Sea, consistent with international law.

Sec. 214. Combating terrorism in Southeast Asia.

This section would require a report to be sent to Congress regarding a strategy to combat terrorism, including the Islamic State and associated entities, in Southeast Asia.

Sec. 215. Cybersecurity cooperation.

This section would express the Sense of Congress that there should be robust cybersecurity cooperation between the United States and nations in the Indo-Pacific region.

This section would authorize the appropriation of \$100 million for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023 to enhance cooperation between the United States and Indo-Pacific nations for the purposes of combatting cybersecurity threats.

Sec. 216. Nonproliferation and arms control in the Indo-Pacific region.

This section would express the Sense of Congress that the United States Government should undertake all reasonable and appropriate efforts to pursue as appropriate effective arms control and nuclear nonproliferation policies in the Indo-Pacific region to limit the further spread of potentially dangerous and destabilizing conventional and nuclear weapons.

TITLE III—PROMOTING UNITED STATES ECONOMIC INTERESTS IN THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION

Sec. 302. Trade negotiations, multilateral agreements, and regional economic summits.

This section would state support for bilateral or regional trade agreements, formal economic dialogues that include concrete outcomes, and high-standard Bilateral Investment Treaties between the United States and nations of the Asia-Pacific, as consistent with U.S. law.

Sec. 303. United States-ASEAN economic partnership.

This section would express that the President should seek to develop to negotiate a comprehensive economic engagement framework with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Sec. 304. Trade capacity building and trade facilitation.

This section would encourage the President to produce a robust and comprehensive trade capacity building and trade facilitation strategy for the Asia-Pacific region and authorizes such funds as necessary for this purpose.

Sec. 305. Intellectual property protection.

This section would encourage the President to take steps to strengthen the enforcement of United States intellectual property laws as a top priority, including taking all appropriate action to deter and punish commercial cyber-enabled theft of intellectual property.

This section would require annual reporting to the Congress on such efforts.

This section would authorize the appropriation of such amounts as may be necessary to sponsor bilateral and multilateral activities designed to build capacity in the identified priority areas described in this section.

Some conservatives may be concerned that this provision would violate the [Majority Leader's Protocol](#) prohibiting "such sums" authorizations.

Sec. 306. Energy programs and initiatives.

This section would require an interagency strategy within 180 days of enactment of this legislation to increase US energy exports to the Asia-Pacific region.

This section would authorize the appropriation of \$1 million for each of the fiscal years 2019 through 2023.

Sec. 307. Lower Mekong initiative.

This section would require the Department of State, in cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development, to increase regional engagement in the areas of environment, health, education, and infrastructure development with countries of the Lower Mekong.

This section would require a report to Congress not later than 180 days after the enactment of this legislation, and annually thereafter through 2023, regarding the provisions under this section.

Sec. 308. Sense of Congress on economic growth and natural resource conservation.

This section would express the Sense of Congress on the importance of promoting resource conservation in the Indo-Pacific region.

Sec. 309. Sense of Congress in support of women's economic rights.

This section would express the Sense of Congress should support activities that secure private property rights and land tenure for women in developing countries in Asia.

TITLE IV—PROMOTING UNITED STATES VALUES IN THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION

Sec. 402. Trafficking-in-persons.

This section would encourage the President to pursue additional efforts to combat trafficking in persons and human slavery in the Indo-Pacific region.

Sec. 403. Freedom of the press.

This section would express the Sense of Congress that the United States should actively advocate for freedom of the press in the Indo-Pacific region.

Sec. 404. Democracy, human rights, and labor personnel.

This section would express the Sense of Congress that United States embassies and consulates in the Indo-Pacific region should have personnel, as appropriate, who are dedicated to reporting on and advancing United States democracy, human rights, labor, anti-corruption, and good governance policy interests.

Sec. 405. Bilateral and regional dialogues; people-to-people engagement.

This section would require the Secretary of State to establish high-level bilateral and regional dialogues with nations in the Indo-Pacific region regarding human rights and religious freedom violations; establish or support robust, people-to-people exchange programs in the Indo-Pacific region, particularly programs engaging young leaders; and establish educational exchanges and capacity-building programs emphasizing civil society development.

Sec. 406. Association of Southeast Asian Nations Human Rights Strategy.

This section would express the Sense of Congress that the United States should continue to work with ASEAN to improve the capacity of ASEAN to address human rights, democracy, and good governance issues in Southeast Asia.

This section would require a report to Congress within 90 days on the US government's efforts to increase cooperation with ASEAN nations to promote democracy, human rights, and good governance.

Sec. 407. Freedom of information to North Korea.

This section would encourage the President is encouraged to continue efforts to enhance freedom of information access with regard to North Korea.

Sec. 408. Sense of Congress on imposition of sanctions and suspension of United States assistance.

This section would express the Sense of Congress that the President should impose U.S. sanctions, including financial penalties and U.S. visa bans, for those individuals and entities found to violate human rights, religious freedoms, or engage in censorship activities, as consistent with existing U.S. law, and terminate or alter U.S. assistance to those nations engaged in serious violations of human rights and religious freedoms.

Sec. 409. Authorization of appropriations.

This section would authorize \$210 million annually for U.S. government programs to promote democracy, strengthen civil society, human rights, rule of law, transparency, and accountability in the Asia-Pacific region

Sec. 410. Indo-Pacific human rights defenders.

This section would express the Sense of Congress that human rights defenders in the Indo-Pacific region have been facing increased difficulties with the rise of unprecedented crackdown and conflicts.

This section would authorize \$1 million for each of the fiscal years 2019 through 2023.

This section would require a report to Congress on the provisions of this section.

Sec. 411. Young leaders people-to-people initiatives.

This section would authorize to be appropriated \$25 million for each of the fiscal years 2019 through 2023 to support Indo-Pacific young leaders initiatives, including the Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative, the ASEAN Youth Volunteers Program, and other people-to-people exchange programs that focus on building the capacity of democracy, human rights, and good governance activists in the Indo-Pacific region.

COMMITTEE ACTION: S. 2736 was introduced on April 23, 2018, and passed in the Senate on December 4, 2018, by unanimous consent.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No stated Administration position available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

Constitutional authority statements are not required for legislation originated in the Senate.

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