

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 9256

To amend the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, to make improvements relating to cooperation between the United States and Israel to counter unmanned aerial systems, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 31, 2022

Mr. GOTTHEIMER (for himself and Mr. GARBARINO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To amend the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020, to make improvements relating to cooperation between the United States and Israel to counter unmanned aerial systems, 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 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “U.S.-Israel Anti-Killer  
5 Drone Act of 2022”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS RELATING TO UNITED STATES-**  
2 **ISRAEL COOPERATION TO COUNTER UN-**  
3 **MANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

5 (1) The growing arsenal of unmanned aerial  
6 systems of Iran includes—

7 (A) unmanned aerial systems that engage  
8 in intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance;

9 (B) unmanned combat aerial systems capa-  
10 ble of striking battlefield targets; and

11 (C) loitering munitions, also known as  
12 “suicide drones” or “kamikaze drones”.

13 (2) Iran-origin unmanned aerial systems rep-  
14 resent a threat to the Armed Forces and facilities of  
15 the United States in the Middle East, as well as to  
16 United States allies and partners such as Israel,  
17 Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.

18 (3) In February 2018, Iran allegedly launched  
19 an armed unmanned aerial system from Syria into  
20 Israeli airspace which was ultimately destroyed by  
21 Israeli warplanes.

22 (4) In September 2019, Iran launched cruise  
23 missiles and loitering munitions at key oil installa-  
24 tions in Saudi Arabia.

25 (5) Throughout the takeover of Yemen by the  
26 Houthi, beginning in 2014 and continuing into the

1 present, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps  
2 Quds-Force has provided the Yemeni rebels with un-  
3 manned aerial systems, enabling the Houthis to rou-  
4 tinely strike civilian targets in both Saudi Arabia  
5 and the United Arab Emirates.

6 (6) In March 2021, Iran attempted to send two  
7 triangular-shaped unmanned aerial systems towards  
8 Israel which were ultimately downed by Israeli war-  
9 planes over the territory of an undisclosed Arab  
10 country.

11 (7) On March 27 and 28, 2022, Secretary of  
12 State Blinken met in Israel with counterparts from  
13 the governments of Israel, Bahrain, Egypt, the  
14 United Arab Emirates, and Morocco to promote nor-  
15 malization in the region and declared, “Our commit-  
16 ment to the core principle that Iran can never ac-  
17 quire a nuclear weapon is unwavering. One way or  
18 another, we will continue to cooperate closely.”.

19 (8) On June 2, 2022, Iran-backed Hezbollah  
20 sent three unmanned aerial systems towards the  
21 Israeli-controlled Karish gas field, one of which was  
22 intercepted by an F-16 fighter jet, and two of which  
23 were intercepted by Barak 8 missiles launched from  
24 the Sa’ar 5-class corvette “INS Eilat”.

1           (9) On 14 July 2022, the United States and  
2 Israel adopted the Joint Declaration on the U.S.-  
3 Israel Strategic Partnership, reaffirming the un-  
4 breakable bonds between the two countries and the  
5 enduring commitment of the United States to the  
6 security of Israel.

7           (10) On July 14, 2022, the House of Rep-  
8 resentatives passed H.R. 7900, the National Defense  
9 Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023, sections  
10 1333 and 1334 of which included language to—

11           (A) extend the authority to carry out ac-  
12 tivities and provide support relating to United  
13 States-Israel cooperation to counter unmanned  
14 aerial systems under section 1278 of the Na-  
15 tional Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal  
16 Year 2020 (Public Law 116–92; 133 Stat.  
17 1702; 22 U.S.C. 8606 note);

18           (B) include directed energy capabilities as  
19 a type of capability for countering unmanned  
20 aerial systems under such section; and

21           (C) increase the annual limitation on the  
22 amount of support provided under subsection  
23 (b) of such section from \$25,000,000, to  
24 \$40,000,000.

1 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
2 gress that the United States should—

3 (1) enhance ongoing cooperation with Israel in  
4 developing mutually beneficial counter unmanned  
5 aerial systems technologies and capabilities;

6 (2) share with Israel information about the  
7 evolving threat of Iran-origin unmanned aerial sys-  
8 tems; and

9 (3) use the United States Israel Operations-  
10 Technology Working Group authorized under section  
11 1299M(c) of the National Defense Authorization Act  
12 for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116–283; 134  
13 Stat. 4014) as the epicenter of such efforts.

14 (c) UNITED STATES-ISRAEL COOPERATION TO  
15 COUNTER UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS.—Section  
16 1278(a)(2) of the National Defense Authorization Act for  
17 Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116–92; 133 Stat. 1702;  
18 22 U.S.C. 8606 note) is amended by adding at the end  
19 the following new subparagraphs:

20 “(C) The status of cooperation between the  
21 United States and Israel on countering un-  
22 manned aerial systems, to include an assess-  
23 ment of—

1           “(i) the development of equipment  
2           and procedures to counter unmanned aer-  
3           ial systems;

4           “(ii) the capability of Israel to detect,  
5           counter, and deter unmanned aerial sys-  
6           tems;

7           “(iii) the cooperation between the  
8           United States and Israel to detect,  
9           counter, and deter unmanned aerial sys-  
10          tems;

11          “(iv) in particular, such cooperation  
12          with respect to the detection, countering,  
13          and deterrence of loitering munitions; and

14          “(v) the extent to which the United  
15          States-Israel Operations-Technology Work-  
16          ing Group is being used to carry out the  
17          activities described in paragraph (1).

18          “(D) An assessment of the threat to the  
19          United States and Israel posed by unmanned  
20          aerial systems from Iran and associated proxies  
21          of Iran, including an assessment of currently  
22          deployed or otherwise available anti-drone capa-  
23          bilities of the United States and Israel and the

1           adequacy of such capabilities to offset such  
2           threat.”.

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