

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1465

To establish the Baltic Security Initiative for the purpose of strengthening the defensive capabilities of the Baltic countries, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 4, 2023

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. KING, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. CASEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. ROSEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To establish the Baltic Security Initiative for the purpose of strengthening the defensive capabilities of the Baltic countries, 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 “Baltic Security Initia-
5 tive Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. BALTIC SECURITY INITIATIVE.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Defense
8 shall establish and carry out an initiative, to be known

1 as the “Baltic Security Initiative” (in this section referred
2 to as the “Initiative”) for the purpose of deepening secu-
3 rity cooperation with the Baltic countries.

4 (b) RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING AUTHORITIES.—

5 The Initiative required by subsection (a) shall be carried
6 out pursuant to the authorities provided in title 10, United
7 States Code.

8 (c) OBJECTIVES.—The objectives of the Initiative
9 shall be—

10 (1) to achieve United States national security
11 objectives by—

12 (A) deterring aggression by the Russian
13 Federation; and

14 (B) implementing the North Atlantic Trea-
15 ty Organization’s new Strategic Concept, which
16 seeks to strengthen the alliance’s deterrence
17 and defense posture by denying potential adver-
18 saries any possible opportunities for aggression;

19 (2) to enhance regional planning and coopera-
20 tion among the Baltic countries, particularly with re-
21 spect to long-term regional capability projects, in-
22 cluding—

23 (A) long-range precision fire systems and
24 capabilities;

25 (B) integrated air and missile defense;

1 (C) maritime domain awareness;

2 (D) land forces development, including
3 stockpiling large caliber ammunition;

4 (E) command, control, communications,
5 computers, intelligence, surveillance, and recon-
6 naissance;

7 (F) special operations forces development;

8 (G) coordination with and security en-
9 hancements for Poland, which is a neighboring
10 North Atlantic Treaty Organization ally; and

11 (H) other military capabilities, as deter-
12 mined by the Secretary of Defense; and

13 (3) to improve the Baltic countries' cyber de-
14 fenses and resilience to hybrid threats.

15 (d) STRATEGY.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
17 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
18 retary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report
19 setting forth a strategy for the Department of De-
20 fense to achieve the objectives described in sub-
21 section (b).

22 (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—The strategy required
23 by this subsection shall include a consideration of—

1 (A) security assistance programs for the
2 Baltic countries authorized as of the date on
3 which the strategy is submitted;

4 (B) the ongoing security threats to the
5 North Atlantic Treaty Organization’s eastern
6 flank posed by Russian aggression, including as
7 a result of the Russian Federation’s 2022 inva-
8 sion of Ukraine with support from Belarus; and

9 (C) the ongoing security threats to the
10 Baltic countries posed by the presence, coercive
11 economic policies, and other malign activities of
12 the People’s Republic of China.

13 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
15 appropriated to the Secretary of Defense
16 \$350,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2024,
17 2025, and 2026 to carry out the Initiative.

18 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
19 Congress that the Secretary of Defense should seek
20 to require matching funds from each of the Baltic
21 countries that participate in the Initiative in
22 amounts commensurate with amounts provided by
23 the Department of Defense for the Initiative.

24 (f) BALTIC COUNTRIES DEFINED.—In this section,
25 the term “Baltic countries” means—

- 1 (1) Estonia;
- 2 (2) Latvia; and
- 3 (3) Lithuania.

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