

BILL SUMMARY

May 2009

Iran Sanctions Enabling Act of 2009 (H.R. 1327 and S. 1065)

Members of Congress have introduced the Iran Sanctions Enabling Act of 2009 (H.R. 1327 in the House and S. 1065 in the Senate), which authorizes state and local governments to divest from companies investing in Iran's petroleum and natural gas sector and protects fund managers who divest from such companies from potential lawsuits.

The lead cosponsors of the House bill are Reps. Barney Frank (D-MA) and Mark Kirk (R-IL). The Senate bill was introduced by Sens. Sam Brownback (R-KS) and Robert Casey (D-PA). The House Financial Services Committee passed the bill by voice vote on April 28, 2009.

A version of the bill introduced in the last Congress (H.R. 2347) by Reps. Barney Frank (D-MA) and Christopher Shays (R-CT) was overwhelmingly passed by the House of Representatives on July 31, 2007, by a vote of 408-6, but failed to receive consideration in the Senate.

Key Provisions of H.R. 1327:

- Authorizes state and local governments to divest the assets of their pension funds and any other funds under their control from companies on the list.
- Protects fund managers who divest from companies from lawsuits directed at them by investors who are unhappy with the results.