

BILL SUMMARY

April 2014

The Nuclear Weapon Free Iran Act of 2013 (S. 1881)

The Nuclear Weapon Free Iran Act of 2013 (S. 1881), authored by Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Sen. Mark Kirk (R-IL), aims to strengthen American diplomatic efforts to prevent Iran from achieving a nuclear weapons capability.

The legislation meets the president's request that no additional sanctions be imposed during the talks. New sanctions, provided for in the bill, would be suspended for up to a year to facilitate negotiations for a final agreement, and could be suspended further if an acceptable final agreement with Iran is reached.

The legislation codifies President Obama's pledge that new sanctions will be forthcoming if a final agreement cannot be reached and that any deal must "make it impossible [for Iran] to develop a nuclear weapon."

Key Provisions

Provides Negotiating Space as Requested by the President

- Allows the president to suspend the initial application of new sanctions for up to a year while negotiations with Iran proceed.
- Allows the president to further suspend the sanctions for specified periods if an acceptable final agreement with Iran is reached.

Establishes Strict Congressional Oversight of the Negotiations

- Requires sanctions suspended under the interim agreement between Iran and the P5+1 to be reinstated if Iran breaches the agreement or an acceptable final agreement is not reached.
- Provides a mechanism for Congress to express disapproval of the president's decision to suspend sanctions.

Requires Further Reductions in Iranian Oil Exports

- Sanctions countries that fail to reduce their oil imports from Iran by at least 30 percent within a one year period and to virtually zero within two years.

Targets Additional Strategic Sectors of the Iranian Economy

- Expands sanctions to the remaining large sectors of the Iranian economy, including shipbuilding, mining, construction, and engineering.

Tightens Financial Sanctions

- Targets foreign financial institutions that facilitate transactions in non-local hard currencies with sanctioned Iranian banks or the Central Bank of Iran.

Expands Sanctions on Human Rights Violators

- Expands the list of senior Iranian officials subject to sanctions and targets individuals involved in corruption, diverting humanitarian goods, or aiding Iran to evade sanctions.

Outlines the Acceptable Contours of a Final Agreement

- If a final agreement is reached, the president must certify that the deal meets several requirements before the United States can suspend sanctions:
 - Dismantle Iran's illicit nuclear infrastructure, including enrichment and reprocessing capabilities and the heavy water reactor and production plant at Arak, such that Iran is prevented from pursuing both uranium and plutonium pathways to a nuclear weapon.
 - Bring Iran into compliance with the requirements of six U.N. Security Council resolutions.
 - Resolve all International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) concerns over possible military dimensions of Iran's nuclear program.
 - Permit continuous 24/7 on-site inspection, verification, and monitoring of all suspect facilities in Iran.
 - Require Iran to implement the additional protocol to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).