

BILL SUMMARY

May 2015

The Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015 (H.R.1191)

The Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015, passed overwhelmingly in the House (400-25) and Senate (98-1), establishes a procedure for congressional review of any nuclear agreement with Iran. Under its provisions, Congress could pass a joint resolution objecting to an agreement and barring any statutory sanctions relief. On such a critical issue to U.S. national security, Congress must assert its historic role in foreign policy, review any agreement, and object to an agreement if it will not prevent a nuclear-capable Iran. The legislation was authored by Sens. Bob Corker (R-TN), Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Ben Cardin (D-MD).

Key Provisions

- Requires the president to submit any agreement to Congress and provides a 30-day period for Congress to review the deal. During this period no additional sanctions relief could be granted to Iran. The review period is extended to 60 days if an agreement is submitted to Congress between July 10 and Sept. 7, 2015.
- Prohibits the president from providing statutory sanctions relief if Congress adopts a joint resolution disapproving of the agreement. The joint resolution would be subject to a presidential veto.
- No sanctions relief could be provided in the 12-day period after a resolution of disapproval is adopted or in the 10-day period after a presidential veto.
- Requires the president to notify Congress of any credible and accurate information related to a potentially significant breach of the agreement. The president must then determine if the violation constitutes a “material breach” of the agreement.
- If Iran is found to have materially breached the agreement, the legislation provides for expedited consideration of legislation reinstating any sanctions waived or suspended.
- Requires a presidential determination that any Iranian nuclear activities permitted under the agreement “will not be used to further any nuclear-related military or nuclear explosive purpose, including for any research on or development...”
- Requires the secretary of state to conclude a verification assessment report to determine the extent to which Iran’s compliance with the agreement can be verified.