

BILL SUMMARY

March 2017

The Countering Iran's Destabilizing Activities Act of 2017 (S.722)

Despite hopes for moderation, Iran has increased its malign activities at home and abroad since the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. The Countering Iran's Destabilizing Activities Act of 2017 (S.722), authored by Sens. Bob Corker (R-TN), Bob Menendez (D-NJ) and Ben Cardin (D-MD), responds to Iran's behavior by strengthening American sanctions targeting those individuals and entities that carry out or support such activities. Directed only at actions outside the nuclear sphere, the legislation in no way violates the letter or spirit of the JCPOA.

The Bill Targets Iran's Ballistic Missile Program:

- Mandates sanctions on persons that engage in or pose a risk of materially contributing to Iran's ballistic missile program. The mandate includes persons engaged in any efforts to manufacture, acquire, possess, develop, transport, transfer or use ballistic missiles.
- Mandates sanctions on anyone that knowingly provides, or attempts to provide, financial, material, technological or other support to such persons.

The Bill Targets Iran's Terrorism and Conventional Arms Trade:

- Imposes terrorism-related sanctions on Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC). The U.S. government has already sanctioned the entire IRGC for non-proliferation and human rights abuses, and it has also designated the IRGC's Quds Force as a terrorist group.
- Mandates sanctions on persons violating the arms embargo placed on Iran by United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231.

Other Provisions:

- Prohibits the lifting of sanctions on persons that were targeted due to support for terrorism or ballistic missile activity unless the person has ceased support for the relevant activity for three months.
- Mandates the creation of a U.S. strategy to counter Iranian conventional and asymmetric activity and threats in the Middle East.
- Authorizes the president to impose human rights sanctions on Iranian individuals that are responsible for extrajudicial killings, torture, or other gross human rights violations against individuals in Iran that promote human rights or expose illegal government activity.
- Requires a report on U.S. citizens detained by Iran, including information regarding Iranian government officials involved in the detentions.

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- Requires a report on discrepancies between U.S. and European sanctions targeting certain Iranian activities.
- Provides authority to waive sanctions against persons on a case-by-case basis for periods of not more than 180 days, if the waiver is vital to the national security interests of the United States.



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