

# BILL SUMMARY

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Jan. 7, 2019

## **Strengthening America's Security in the Middle East Act of 2019 (S. 1)**

The Strengthening America's Security in the Middle East Act of 2019 combines four bipartisan initiatives aimed at supporting regional stability and strengthening Israel. The legislation authorizes agreed-upon increases in Israel's security assistance, supports defense cooperation with Jordan, expands sanctions targeting Syria, and clarifies that states have the authority to act against boycotts targeting Israel.

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### **Ileana Ros-Lehtinen United States-Israel Security Assistance Authorization Act of 2019**

- The House of Representative and Senate adopted versions of this bipartisan legislation in 2018.
- Originally authored by Sens. Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Chris Coons (D-DE) in the Senate and Reps. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) and Ted Deutch (D-FL) in the House.
- Authorizes U.S. security assistance for Israel for 10 years, as called for in the 2016 U.S.-Israel Memorandum of Understanding on security assistance.
- Extends authorization for the U.S. War Reserve Stockpile in Israel by five years and authorizes an additional \$1 billion in stocks.
- Authorizes the president to transfer precision guided munitions to Israel.
- Extends authorization for loan guarantees to Israel by four years.
- Authorizes U.S.-Israel cooperation to counter unmanned aerial vehicles and establishes a U.S.-Israel cybersecurity research and development grant program.

### **United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Extension Act**

- The full House and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee adopted this legislation in 2018.
- Originally authored by Reps. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) and Ted Deutch (D-FL).
- Reauthorizes enhanced U.S.-Jordan defense cooperation through 2022.

## AIPAC BILL SUMMARY

### **Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of 2019**

- The full House adopted the measure in 2017, and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee adopted the legislation in 2018.
- Originally authored by Reps. Eliot Engel (D-NY) and Ed Royce (R-CA).
- Requires a determination on whether the Central Bank of Syria is a financial institution of primary money laundering concern.
- Imposes sanctions on foreign persons that engage in significant transactions with the government of Syria or senior Syrian government officials.
- Imposes sanctions on foreign persons that aid the development of Syria's energy sector or provide significant construction or engineering services to the government of Syria.
- Imposes sanctions on foreign persons that engage in significant transactions with military forces operating in Syria on behalf of the governments of Syria, Iran or Russia.
- Provides waivers for humanitarian assistance and national security interests.

### **Combating BDS Act of 2019**

- Originally authored by Sens. Rubio and Joe Manchin (D-WV) in the Senate and Reps. Patrick McHenry (R-NC) and Juan Vargas (D-CA) in the House.
- Clarifies that state and local governments have the right to divest public funds from entities engaging in commerce-related or investment-related Boycott, Divestment or Sanction activity targeting Israel.
- Clarifies that state and local governments have the right to prohibit or limit public contracts for goods or services with entities that engage in BDS.
- Provides safe harbor protection to asset managers from lawsuits that may arise from carrying out divestment pursuant to the law.
- Emphasizes that nothing in the bill alters established U.S. policy concerning final status issues between Israel and the Palestinians, which can only be resolved through direct negotiations between the parties.
- The bill's scope is limited to commercial activities between companies and state and local governments and does not restrict free speech. U.S. courts have repeatedly ruled that states can place conditions on companies that want to do business with them.
- More than two dozen states have enacted laws or taken executive action that the legislation seeks to protect.