

1 Title: To provide for congressional review and oversight of agreements relating to Iran's nuclear
2 program, and for other purposes.
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5 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in
6 Congress assembled,

7 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

8 This Act may be cited as the “Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015”.

9 SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW AND OVERSIGHT OF 10 AGREEMENTS WITH IRAN RELATING TO THE 11 NUCLEAR PROGRAM OF IRAN.

12 The Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section
13 134 the following new section:

14 “SEC. 135. CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW AND OVERSIGHT 15 OF AGREEMENTS WITH IRAN.

16 “(a) Transmission to Congress of Nuclear Agreements With Iran and Verification Assessment
17 With Respect to Such Agreements.—

18 “(1) TRANSMISSION OF AGREEMENTS.—Not later than 5 calendar days after reaching an
19 agreement with Iran relating to the nuclear program of Iran, the President shall transmit to
20 the appropriate congressional committees—

21 “(A) the text of the agreement and all related materials and annexes;

22 “(B) a verification assessment report of the Secretary of State prepared under
23 paragraph (2) with respect to the agreement; and

24 “(C) a certification that—

25 “(i) the agreement includes the appropriate terms, conditions, and duration of
26 the agreement’s requirements with respect to Iran’s nuclear activities and
27 provisions describing any sanctions to be waived, suspended, or otherwise
28 reduced by the United States, and any other nation or entity, including the United
29 Nations; and

30 “(ii) the President determines the agreement meets United States non-
31 proliferation objectives, does not jeopardize the common defense and security,
32 provides an adequate framework to ensure that Iran’s nuclear activities permitted
33 thereunder will not be inimical to or constitute an unreasonable risk to the
34 common defense and security, and ensures that Iran’s nuclear activities permitted
35 thereunder will not be used to further any nuclear-related military or nuclear
36 explosive purpose, including for any research on or development of any nuclear
37 explosive device or any other nuclear-related military purpose.

1 “(2) VERIFICATION ASSESSMENT REPORT.—

2 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall prepare, with respect to an
3 agreement described in paragraph (1), a report assessing—

4 “(i) the extent to which the Secretary will be able to verify that Iran is
5 complying with its obligations under the agreement;

6 “(ii) the adequacy of the safeguards and other control mechanisms and other
7 assurances contained in the agreement with respect to Iran’s nuclear program to
8 ensure Iran’s activities permitted thereunder will not be used to further any
9 nuclear-related military or nuclear explosive purpose, including for any research
10 on or development of any nuclear explosive device or any other nuclear-related
11 military purpose; and

12 “(iii) the capacity and capability of the International Atomic Energy Agency to
13 effectively implement the verification regime required by the agreement,
14 including whether the International Atomic Energy Agency has the required
15 funding, manpower, and authority to do so.

16 “(B) ASSUMPTIONS.—In preparing a report under subparagraph (A) with respect to
17 an agreement described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall assume that Iran could—

18 “(i) use all measures not expressly prohibited by the agreement to conceal
19 activities that violate its obligations under the agreement; and

20 “(ii) alter or deviate from standard practices in order to impede efforts to verify
21 that Iran is complying with those obligations.

22 “(C) CLASSIFIED ANNEX.—A report under subparagraph (A) shall be transmitted in
23 unclassified form, but shall include a classified annex prepared in consultation with the
24 Director of National Intelligence, summarizing relevant classified information.

25 “(3) EXCEPTION.—The requirements of subparagraphs (1)(B) and (1)(C) shall not apply
26 to an agreement defined in paragraph (i)(6).

27 “(b) Period for Review by Congress of Nuclear Agreements With Iran.—

28 “(1) IN GENERAL.—During the 60-day period following transmittal by the President of an
29 agreement pursuant to subsection (a), the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and
30 the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives shall, as appropriate,
31 hold hearings and briefings, and otherwise obtain information in order to fully review such
32 agreement.

33 “(2) LIMITATION ON ACTIONS DURING PERIOD OF REVIEW.—Notwithstanding any other
34 provision of law, except as provided in paragraph (3), during the period for review provided
35 in paragraph (1), the President may not waive, suspend, reduce, provide relief from, or
36 otherwise limit the application of statutory sanctions with respect to Iran under any
37 provision of law or refrain from applying any such sanctions pursuant to an agreement
38 described in subsection (a).

39 “(3) EXCEPTION.—The prohibition under paragraph (2) does not apply to any deferral,
40 waiver, or other suspension of statutory sanctions pursuant to the Joint Plan of Action if that
41 deferral, waiver, or other suspension is made—

1 “(A) consistent with the law in effect on the date of the enactment of the Iran
2 Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015; and

3 “(B) not later than 45 days before the transmission by the President of an agreement,
4 assessment report, and certification under subsection (a).

5 “(c) Effect of Congressional Action With Respect to Nuclear Agreements With Iran.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, action involving any
7 measure of statutory sanctions relief by the United States pursuant to an agreement subject
8 to subsection (a) or the Joint Plan of Action—

9 “(A) may be taken, consistent with existing statutory requirements for such action,
10 if, during the period for review provided in subsection (b)(1), the Congress adopts, and
11 there is enacted, a joint resolution stating in substance that the Congress does favor the
12 agreement;

13 “(B) may not be taken if, during the period for review provided in subsection (b)(1),
14 the Congress adopts, and there is enacted, a joint resolution stating in substance that
15 the Congress does not favor the agreement; or

16 “(C) may be taken, consistent with existing statutory requirements for such action,
17 if, following the period for review provided in subsection (b)(1), there is not enacted
18 any such joint resolution.

19 “(2) DEFINITION.—For the purposes of this subsection, the phrase ‘action involving any
20 measure of statutory sanctions relief by the United States’ shall include waiver, suspension,
21 reduction, or other effort to provide relief from, or otherwise limit the application of,
22 statutory sanctions with respect to Iran under any provision of law or any other effort to
23 refrain from applying any such sanctions.

24 “(d) Congressional Oversight of Iranian Compliance With Nuclear Agreements.—

25 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall, within 10 days of receiving credible and accurate
26 information relating to a potentially significant breach or compliance incident by Iran with
27 respect to an agreement subject to subsection (a), submit such information to the appropriate
28 congressional committees.

29 “(2) MATERIAL BREACH REPORT.—Not later than 10 days after submitting information
30 about a potentially significant breach or compliance incident pursuant to paragraph (1), the
31 President shall make a determination whether such potentially significant breach or
32 compliance issue constitutes a material breach and shall submit to the appropriate
33 congressional committees such determination, accompanied by, as appropriate, a report on
34 the action or failure to act by Iran that led to the material breach, actions necessary for Iran
35 to cure the breach, and the status of Iran’s efforts to cure the breach.

36 “(3) SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after entering into an agreement
37 described in subsection (a), and not less frequently than once every 180 days thereafter, the
38 President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on Iran’s
39 nuclear program and the compliance of Iran with the agreement during the period covered
40 by the report, including the following elements:

41 “(A) Any action or failure to act by Iran that breached the agreement or is in

1 noncompliance with the terms of the agreement.

2 “(B) Any delay by Iran of more than one week in providing inspectors access to
3 facilities, people, and documents in Iran as required by the agreement.

4 “(C) Any progress made by Iran to resolve concerns by the International Atomic
5 Energy Agency about possible military dimensions of Iran’s nuclear program.

6 “(D) Any procurement by Iran of materials in violation of the agreement.

7 “(E) Any centrifuge research and development conducted by Iran that—

8 “(i) is not in compliance with the agreement; or

9 “(ii) may substantially enhance the enrichment capacity of Iran if deployed.

10 “(F) Any diversion by Iran of uranium, carbon-fiber, or other materials for use in
11 Iran’s nuclear program in violation of the agreement.

12 “(G) Any covert nuclear activities undertaken by Iran.

13 “(H) An assessment of whether any Iranian financial institutions are engaged in
14 money laundering or terrorist finance activities, including names of specific financial
15 institutions if applicable.

16 “(I) An assessment of—

17 “(i) whether, and the extent to which, Iran supported acts of terrorism; and

18 “(ii) whether Iran directly supported, financed, planned, or carried out an act of
19 terrorism against the United States or a United States person anywhere in the
20 world.

21 “(4) ADDITIONAL REPORTS AND INFORMATION.—

22 “(A) AGENCY REPORTS.—Following submission of an agreement pursuant to
23 subsection (a) to the appropriate congressional committees, the Department of State,
24 the Department of Energy, and the Department of Defense shall, upon the request of
25 either of those committees, promptly furnish to those committees their views as to
26 whether the safeguards and other controls contained in the agreement with respect to
27 Iran’s nuclear program provide an adequate framework to ensure that Iran’s activities
28 permitted thereunder will not be inimical to or constitute an unreasonable risk to the
29 common defense and security.

30 “(B) PROVISION OF INFORMATION ON NUCLEAR INITIATIVES WITH IRAN.—The
31 President shall keep the appropriate congressional committees fully and currently
32 informed of any initiative or negotiations with Iran relating Iran’s nuclear program,
33 including any new or amended agreement.

34 “(5) CERTIFICATION.—After the review period provided in subsection (b)(1), the
35 President shall, not less than every 90 days—

36 “(A) determine whether the President is able to certify that—

37 “(i) Iran is transparently, verifiably, and fully implementing the agreement,
38 including all related technical or additional agreements;

1 “(ii) Iran has not committed a material breach with respect to the agreement or,
2 if Iran has committed a material breach, Iran has cured the material breach;

3 “(iii) Iran has not taken any action, including covert action, that could
4 significantly advance its nuclear weapons program;

5 “(iv) Iran has not directly supported or carried out an act of terrorism against
6 the United States or a United States person anywhere in the world; and

7 “(v) suspension of sanctions related to Iran pursuant to the agreement is—

8 “(I) appropriate and proportionate to the specific and verifiable measures
9 taken by Iran with respect to terminating its illicit nuclear program; and

10 “(II) vital to the national security interests of the United States; and

11 “(B) if the President determines he is able to make the certification described in
12 subparagraph (A), make such certification to the appropriate congressional
13 committees.

14 “(e) Expedited Consideration of Legislation .—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In the event the President does not submit a certification pursuant to
16 subsection (d)(5) or has determined pursuant to subsection (d)(2) that Iran has materially
17 breached an agreement subject to subsection (a), Congress may initiate within 60 days
18 expedited consideration of qualifying legislation pursuant to this subsection.

19 “(2) QUALIFYING LEGISLATION DEFINED.—For purposes of this subsection, the term
20 ‘qualifying legislation’ means only a bill of either House of Congress—

21 “(A) the title of which is as follows: ‘A bill reinstating statutory sanctions imposed
22 with respect to Iran.’; and

23 “(B) the matter after the enacting clause of which is: ‘Any statutory sanctions
24 imposed with respect to Iran pursuant to _____ that were waived, suspended,
25 reduced, or otherwise relieved pursuant to an agreement submitted pursuant to section
26 135(a) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 are hereby reinstated and any action by the
27 United States Government to facilitate the release of funds or assets to Iran pursuant to
28 such agreement, or provide any further waiver, suspension, reduction, or other relief is
29 hereby prohibited.’, with the blank space being filled in with the law or laws under
30 which sanctions are to be reinstated.

31 “(3) INTRODUCTION.—During the 60-day period provided for in paragraph (1), qualifying
32 legislation may be introduced—

33 “(A) in the House of Representatives, by the Speaker (or the Speaker’s designee) or
34 the minority leader (or the minority leader’s designee); and

35 “(B) in the Senate, by the majority leader (or the majority leader’s designee) or the
36 minority leader (or the minority leader’s designee).

37 “(4) COMMITTEE REFERRAL.—Qualifying legislation introduced in the Senate shall be
38 referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations and in the House of Representatives to the
39 Committee on Foreign Affairs.

40 “(5) DISCHARGE.—If the committee of either House to which qualifying legislation has

1 been referred has not reported such qualifying legislation within 10 session days after the
2 date of referral of such legislation, that committee shall be discharged from further
3 consideration of such legislation and the qualifying legislation shall be placed on the
4 appropriate calendar.

5 “(6) FLOOR CONSIDERATION IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

6 “(A) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—After each committee authorized to
7 consider qualifying legislation reports it to the House of Representatives or has been
8 discharged from its consideration, it shall be in order to move to proceed to consider
9 the qualifying legislation in the House. All points of order against the motion are
10 waived. Such a motion shall not be in order after the House has disposed of a motion to
11 proceed on the qualifying legislation. The previous question shall be considered as
12 ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion. The motion shall not
13 be debatable. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is disposed of shall
14 not be in order.

15 “(B) CONSIDERATION.—The qualifying legislation shall be considered as read. All
16 points of order against the qualifying legislation and against its consideration are
17 waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the qualifying
18 legislation to its passage without intervening motion except 2 hours of debate equally
19 divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent. A motion to reconsider the
20 vote on passage of the qualifying legislation shall not be in order. No amendment to, or
21 motion to recommit, qualifying legislation shall be in order.

22 “(C) APPEALS.—All appeals from the Chair relating to the application of the Rules
23 of the House of Representatives to the procedure relating to the qualifying legislation
24 shall be decided without debate.

25 “(7) FLOOR CONSIDERATION IN THE SENATE.—

26 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate,
27 it is in order at any time after the committee authorized to consider qualifying
28 legislation reports it to the Senate or has been discharged from its consideration (even
29 though a previous motion to the same effect has been disagreed to) to move to proceed
30 to the consideration of qualifying legislation, and all points of order against qualifying
31 legislation (and against consideration of the qualifying legislation) are waived. The
32 motion to proceed is not debatable. The motion is not subject to a motion to postpone.
33 A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall
34 not be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consideration of the qualifying legislation
35 is agreed to, the qualifying legislation shall remain the unfinished business until
36 disposed of.

37 “(B) DEBATE.—Debate on qualifying legislation, and on all debatable motions and
38 appeals in connection therewith, shall be limited to not more than 10 hours, which shall
39 be divided equally between the majority and minority leaders or their designees. A
40 motion to further limit debate is in order and not debatable. An amendment to, or a
41 motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business, or a
42 motion to recommit the qualifying legislation is not in order.

43 “(C) VOTE ON PASSAGE.—The vote on passage shall occur immediately following

1 the conclusion of the debate on the qualifying legislation and a single quorum call at
2 the conclusion of the debate, if requested in accordance with the rules of the Senate.

3 “(D) RULINGS OF THE CHAIR ON PROCEDURE.—Appeals from the decisions of the
4 Chair relating to the application of the rules of the Senate, as the case may be, to the
5 procedure relating to qualifying legislation shall be decided without debate.

6 “(E) CONSIDERATION OF VETO MESSAGES.—Debate in the Senate of any veto
7 message with respect to qualifying legislation, including all debatable motions and
8 appeals in connection with such qualifying legislation, shall be limited to 10 hours, to
9 be equally divided between, and controlled by, the majority leader and the minority
10 leader or their designees.

11 “(8) RULES RELATING TO SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

12 “(A) COORDINATION WITH ACTION BY OTHER HOUSE.—If, before the passage by one
13 House of qualifying legislation of that House, that House receives qualifying
14 legislation from the other House, then the following procedures shall apply:

15 “(i) The qualifying legislation of the other House shall not be referred to a
16 committee.

17 “(ii) With respect to qualifying legislation of the House receiving the
18 legislation—

19 “(I) the procedure in that House shall be the same as if no qualifying
20 legislation had been received from the other House; but

21 “(II) the vote on passage shall be on the qualifying legislation of the other
22 House.

23 “(B) TREATMENT OF JOINT RESOLUTION OF OTHER HOUSE.—If one House fails to
24 introduce or consider qualifying legislation under this section, the qualifying
25 legislation of the other House shall be entitled to expedited floor procedures under this
26 section.

27 “(C) TREATMENT OF COMPANION MEASURES.—If, following passage of the
28 qualifying legislation in the Senate, the Senate then receives a companion measure
29 from the House of Representatives, the companion measure shall not be debatable.

30 “(f) Rules of House of Representatives and Senate.—Subsection (e) is enacted by Congress—

31 “(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate and the House of
32 Representatives, respectively, and as such are deemed a part of the rules of each House,
33 respectively, but applicable only with respect to the procedure to be followed in that House
34 in the case of legislation described in those sections, and supersede other rules only to the
35 extent that they are inconsistent with such rules; and

36 “(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change the rules
37 (so far as relating to the procedure of that House) at any time, in the same manner, and to
38 the same extent as in the case of any other rule of that House.

39 “(g) Rules of Construction.—Nothing in the section shall be construed as—

40 “(1) modifying, or having any other impact on, the President’s authority to negotiate,

1 enter into, or implement appropriate executive agreements, other than the restrictions on
2 implementation of the agreements specifically covered by this Act;

3 “(2) allowing any new waiver, suspension, reduction, or other relief from statutory
4 sanctions with respect to Iran under any provision of law, or allowing the President to
5 refrain from applying any such sanctions pursuant to an agreement described in subsection
6 (a) during the period for review provided in subsection (b)(1);

7 “(3) revoking or terminating any statutory sanctions imposed on Iran; or

8 “(4) authorizing the use of military force against Iran.

9 “(h) Sense of Congress.—It is the sense of Congress that—

10 “(1) the sanctions regime imposed on Iran by Congress is primarily responsible for
11 bringing Iran to the table to negotiate on its nuclear program;

12 “(2) these negotiations are a critically important matter of national security and foreign
13 policy for the United States and its closest allies; and

14 “(3) it is critically important that Congress have the opportunity to consider and, as
15 appropriate, take action on any agreement affecting the statutory sanctions regime imposed
16 by Congress.

17 “(i) Definitions.—In this section:

18 “(1) AGREEMENT AND ALL RELATED MATERIALS AND ANNEXES.—The term ‘agreement
19 and all related materials and annexes’ means the agreement itself and any additional
20 materials related thereto, including annexes, appendices, codicils, side agreements,
21 implementing materials, documents, and guidance, technical or other understandings, and
22 any related agreements, whether entered into or implemented prior to the agreement or to be
23 entered into or implemented in the future.

24 “(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term ‘appropriate congressional
25 committees’ has the meaning given that term in section 14 of the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996
26 (Public Law 104–172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note).

27 “(3) MATERIAL BREACH.—The term ‘material breach’ means, with respect to an
28 agreement described in subsection (a), any breach of the agreement that substantially—

29 “(A) benefits Iran’s nuclear program;

30 “(B) decreases the amount of time required by Iran to achieve a nuclear weapon; or

31 “(C) deviates from, or undermines, the purposes of such agreement.

32 “(4) NONCOMPLIANCE DEFINED.—The term ‘noncompliance’ means any departure from
33 the terms of an agreement described in subsection (a) that is not a material breach.

34 “(5) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term ‘United States person’ has the meaning given
35 that term in section 101 of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and
36 Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8511).

37 “(6) JOINT PLAN OF ACTION.—The term ‘Joint Plan of Action’ means the Joint Plan of
38 Action, signed at Geneva November 24, 2013, by Iran and by France, Germany, the Russian
39 Federation, the People’s Republic of China, the United Kingdom, and the United States, and

1 all implementing materials and agreements related to the Joint Plan of Action, including the
2 technical understandings reached on January 12, 2014, the extension thereto agreed to on
3 July 18, 2014, the extension agreed to on November 24, 2014, and any extension that is
4 agreed to on or after the date of the enactment of the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act
5 of 2015.

6 “(7) P5+1 COUNTRIES.—The term ‘P5+1 countries’ means the United States, France, the
7 Russian Federation, the People’s Republic of China, the United Kingdom, and Germany.”.

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