

BILL SUMMARY

March 2015

The Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015 (S.615)

The Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act of 2015 (S.615), authored by Sens. Bob Corker (R-TN) and Robert Menendez (D-NJ), 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.

Key Provisions

- Provides a 60-day period for Congress to review any agreement during which time no additional sanctions relief could be granted to Iran.
- 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.
- 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.