

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1869

To strengthen the Department of Justice’s enforcement against trade-related crimes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 5, 2025

Mrs. HINSON (for herself, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. IVEY, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. LIEU, Mr. KILEY of California, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Ms. ROSS, Mr. FINSTAD, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. CORREA, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CLINE, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. RULLI, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. GIMENEZ, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. MORAN, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. TORRES of New York, and Ms. TOKUDA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To strengthen the Department of Justice’s enforcement against trade-related crimes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Protecting American
5 Industry and Labor from International Trade Crimes Act
6 of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. TRADE-RELATED CRIMES DEFINED.**

2 In this Act, the term “trade-related crimes” shall be
3 defined as violations of law that are implicated by criminal
4 activities in furtherance of the evasion of duties, tariffs,
5 and other import- and export-related fees, import and ex-
6 port restrictions, or requirements imposed by the Tariff
7 Act of 1930, the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, the Trade
8 Act of 1974, or the Countering America’s Adversaries
9 Through Sanctions Act, as well as all other laws and regu-
10 lations involving criminal activities relating to United
11 States imports and exports, trade-based money laun-
12 dering, and smuggling.

13 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW STRUCTURE TO PROS-**
14 **ECUTE INTERNATIONAL TRADE CRIMES.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—A task force, named program, or
16 other similar structure to investigate and prosecute trade-
17 related crimes, with particular emphasis on violations of
18 the statutes enumerated in section 4(a)(2), shall be estab-
19 lished within the Criminal Division of the Department of
20 Justice not later than 120 days after the date on which
21 appropriations are made available to carry out this Act,
22 and coordinated by a supervisory criminal trial attorney
23 selected by the Assistant Attorney General of the Criminal
24 Division or other official designated by the Attorney Gen-
25 eral.

1 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—To support this effort, the
2 Attorney General shall—

3 (1) create within the Criminal Division of the
4 Department of Justice new positions for criminal
5 trial attorneys and associated support personnel re-
6 sponsible for leading and coordinating trade-related
7 crime investigations and cases, including those that
8 may significantly impact more than one district;

9 (2) ensure that experienced and technically
10 qualified criminal prosecutors support the effort; and

11 (3) promote and ensure effective interaction
12 with law enforcement, industry representatives, and
13 the public in matters relating to trade-related
14 crimes.

15 **SEC. 4. DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS OF NEW TRADE CRIMES**
16 **STRUCTURE.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Through the efforts of the task
18 force, named program, or other structure identified in sec-
19 tion 3(a), the Attorney General shall accomplish each of
20 the following:

21 (1) Increase the capabilities and capacity of the
22 Criminal Division of the Department of Justice to
23 prosecute trade-related crimes.

24 (2) Increase the number of trade-related crimes
25 being investigated and prosecuted, including pursu-

1 ant to health, safety, financial, and economic trade-
2 related crimes, including—

3 (A) section 305 of title 13, United States

4 Code;

5 (B) section 15 or 16 of the Toxic Sub-

6 stances Control Act (15 U.S.C. 2614 or 2615);

7 (C) section 371 of title 18, United States

8 Code;

9 (D) section 541 of title 18, United States

10 Code;

11 (E) section 542 of title 18, United States

12 Code;

13 (F) section 543 of title 18, United States

14 Code;

15 (G) section 545 of title 18, United States

16 Code;

17 (H) section 546 of title 18, United States

18 Code;

19 (I) section 554 of title 18, United States

20 Code;

21 (J) section 1001 of title 18, United States

22 Code;

23 (K) section 1341 of title 18, United States

24 Code;

1 (L) section 1343 of title 18, United States
2 Code;

3 (M) section 1349 of title 18, United States
4 Code;

5 (N) section 1589 of title 18, United States
6 Code;

7 (O) section 1956 of title 18, United States
8 Code;

9 (P) section 1957 of title 18, United States
10 Code;

11 (Q) section 2320 of title 18, United States
12 Code; and

13 (R) section 301 of the Federal Food,
14 Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 331).

15 For the purposes of this Act, this list does not in-
16 clude violations of national security-related laws and
17 regulations, including the Arms Export Control Act
18 (22 U.S.C. 2771 et seq.), International Emergency
19 Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), Ex-
20 port Control and Reform Act (50 U.S.C. 4801 et
21 seq.), and the Trading with the Enemy Act (50
22 U.S.C. 4305(b)).

23 (3) Participate in basic and advanced training
24 events with Homeland Security Investigations, U.S.
25 Customs and Border Protection, and other Federal

1 agencies and provide technical assistance, where ap-
2 propriate, to Homeland Security Investigations, U.S.
3 Customs and Border Protection, and other Federal
4 agencies with respect to the investigation and pros-
5 ecution of trade-related crimes.

6 (4) Develop multi-jurisdictional responses and
7 partnerships with respect to trade-related crimes
8 through informational, administrative, and techno-
9 logical support to other Federal agencies and agen-
10 cies of countries that are trading partners of the
11 United States, as a means for such agencies to ac-
12 quire the necessary knowledge, personnel, and spe-
13 cialized equipment to investigate and prosecute
14 trade-related crimes.

15 (5) Participate in nationally coordinated inves-
16 tigation in any case in which the Attorney General
17 determines such participation to be necessary, as
18 permitted by the available resources of the Depart-
19 ment of Justice.

20 (6) Ensure that all components that enforce
21 laws against trade-related crimes regularly consult
22 with each other.

23 (b) ABSENCE OF EXCLUSION OF PURSUING OTHER
24 REMEDIES.—Litigation by the Criminal Division of the
25 Department of Justice shall not preclude additional crimi-

1 nal prosecution or civil action against trade-related viola-
2 tions. Nothing in this Act shall prevent the Criminal Divi-
3 sion, Civil Division, and other Department of Justice com-
4 ponents from pursuing enforcement action where appro-
5 priate.

6 **SEC. 5. ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

7 The Attorney General, in consultation with the Sec-
8 retary of Homeland Security, shall submit to the Com-
9 mittee on the Judiciary, Committee on Ways and Means,
10 and Committee on Financial Services of the House of Rep-
11 resentatives, and the Committee on the Judiciary and
12 Committee on Finance of the Senate a report on the work
13 of the Department of Justice with respect to investigation
14 and enforcement of trade-related crimes. Specifically, the
15 report shall—

16 (1) be submitted not later than one year after
17 the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually
18 thereafter, not later than February 1 of each year
19 that begins after the submission of the first report;

20 (2) include annual statistics on the volume of
21 publicly charged trade-related crimes and indict-
22 ments;

23 (3) include a summary on how the funds appro-
24 priated for trade-related crimes were utilized in the

1 prior reporting period, including staff and operating
2 expenses; and

3 (4) provide an estimate of any additional fund-
4 ing needed to combat trade-related crimes.

5 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-
7 priated to the Attorney General \$20,000,000 for fiscal
8 year 2026 to carry out this Act. Of sums appropriated,
9 at least 80 percent shall be used by the Criminal Division
10 to support criminal prosecution of trade crimes as defined
11 in this Act, including salaries and expenses necessary to
12 hire and train investigatory and prosecutorial personnel,
13 develop multijurisdictional and multiagency partnerships,
14 and conduct enforcement actions.

15 (b) OTHER CRIMINAL PROSECUTION AND CIVIL EN-
16 FORCEMENT.—Remaining sums may be used by the De-
17 partment of Justice to support criminal prosecution of
18 trade crimes by other components and civil enforcement.

19 (c) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—Amounts appro-
20 priated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations
21 under subsection (a) shall remain available until expended.

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