

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 488

To provide for congressional review of actions to terminate or waive sanctions imposed with respect to Iran.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 25, 2021

Mr. HAGERTY (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. SASSE, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. WICKER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To provide for congressional review of actions to terminate or waive sanctions imposed with respect to Iran.

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 “Iran Sanctions Relief
5 Review Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF CERTAIN ACTIONS RE-**
2 **LATING TO SANCTIONS IMPOSED WITH RE-**
3 **SPECT TO IRAN.**

4 (a) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS OF PROPOSED AC-
5 TION.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
7 provision of law, before taking any action described
8 in paragraph (2), the President shall submit to the
9 appropriate congressional committees and leadership
10 a report that describes the proposed action and the
11 reasons for that action.

12 (2) ACTIONS DESCRIBED.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—An action described in
14 this paragraph is—

15 (i) an action to terminate the applica-
16 tion of any sanctions described in subpara-
17 graph (B);

18 (ii) with respect to sanctions described
19 in subparagraph (B) imposed by the Presi-
20 dent with respect to a person, an action to
21 waive the application of those sanctions
22 with respect to that person; or

23 (iii) a licensing action that signifi-
24 cantly alters United States foreign policy
25 with respect to Iran.

1 (B) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanc-
2 tions described in this subparagraph are sanc-
3 tions with respect to Iran provided for under—

4 (i) the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996
5 (Public Law 104–172; 50 U.S.C. 1701
6 note);

7 (ii) the Comprehensive Iran Sanc-
8 tions, Accountability, and Divestment Act
9 of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8501 et seq.);

10 (iii) section 1245 of the National De-
11 fense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year
12 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8513a);

13 (iv) the Iran Threat Reduction and
14 Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22
15 U.S.C. 8701 et seq.);

16 (v) the Iran Freedom and Counter-
17 Proliferation Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8801
18 et seq.);

19 (vi) the International Emergency Eco-
20 nomic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 note);
21 or

22 (vii) any other statute or Executive
23 order that requires or authorizes the im-
24 position of sanctions with respect to Iran.

1 (3) DESCRIPTION OF TYPE OF ACTION.—Each
2 report submitted under paragraph (1) with respect
3 to an action described in paragraph (2) shall include
4 a description of whether the action—

5 (A) is not intended to significantly alter
6 United States foreign policy with respect to
7 Iran; or

8 (B) is intended to significantly alter
9 United States foreign policy with respect to
10 Iran.

11 (4) INCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL MATTER.—

12 (A) IN GENERAL.—Each report submitted
13 under paragraph (1) that relates to an action
14 that is intended to significantly alter United
15 States foreign policy with respect to Iran shall
16 include a description of—

17 (i) the significant alteration to United
18 States foreign policy with respect to Iran;

19 (ii) the anticipated effect of the action
20 on the national security interests of the
21 United States; and

22 (iii) the policy objectives for which the
23 sanctions affected by the action were ini-
24 tially imposed.

1 (B) REQUESTS FROM BANKING AND FI-
2 NANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEES.—The Com-
3 mittee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
4 of the Senate or the Committee on Financial
5 Services of the House of Representatives may
6 request the submission to the Committee of the
7 matter described in clauses (ii) and (iii) of sub-
8 paragraph (A) with respect to a report sub-
9 mitted under paragraph (1) that relates to an
10 action that is not intended to significantly alter
11 United States foreign policy with respect to
12 Iran.

13 (5) CONFIDENTIALITY OF PROPRIETARY INFOR-
14 MATION.—Proprietary information that can be asso-
15 ciated with a particular person with respect to an
16 action described in paragraph (2) may be included
17 in a report submitted under paragraph (1) only if
18 the appropriate congressional committees and lead-
19 ership provide assurances of confidentiality, unless
20 that person otherwise consents in writing to such
21 disclosure.

22 (6) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Paragraph
23 (2)(A)(iii) shall not be construed to require the sub-
24 mission of a report under paragraph (1) with respect
25 to the routine issuance of a license that does not sig-

1 significantly alter United States foreign policy with re-
2 spect to Iran.

3 (b) PERIOD FOR REVIEW BY CONGRESS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—During the period of 30 cal-
5 endar days beginning on the date on which the
6 President submits a report under subsection
7 (a)(1)—

8 (A) in the case of a report that relates to
9 an action that is not intended to significantly
10 alter United States foreign policy with respect
11 to Iran, the Committee on Banking, Housing,
12 and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Com-
13 mittee on Financial Services of the House of
14 Representatives should, as appropriate, hold
15 hearings and briefings and otherwise obtain in-
16 formation in order to fully review the report;
17 and

18 (B) in the case of a report that relates to
19 an action that is intended to significantly alter
20 United States foreign policy with respect to
21 Iran, the Committee on Foreign Relations of
22 the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Af-
23 fairs of the House of Representatives should, as
24 appropriate, hold hearings and briefings and

1 otherwise obtain information in order to fully
2 review the report.

3 (2) EXCEPTION.—The period for congressional
4 review under paragraph (1) of a report required to
5 be submitted under subsection (a)(1) shall be 60 cal-
6 endar days if the report is submitted on or after
7 July 10 and on or before September 7 in any cal-
8 endar year.

9 (3) LIMITATION ON ACTIONS DURING INITIAL
10 CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW PERIOD.—Notwithstanding
11 any other provision of law, during the period for
12 congressional review provided for under paragraph
13 (1) of a report submitted under subsection (a)(1)
14 proposing an action described in subsection (a)(2),
15 including any additional period for such review as
16 applicable under the exception provided in paragraph
17 (2), the President may not take that action unless
18 a joint resolution of approval with respect to that ac-
19 tion is enacted in accordance with subsection (c).

20 (4) LIMITATION ON ACTIONS DURING PRESI-
21 DENTIAL CONSIDERATION OF A JOINT RESOLUTION
22 OF DISAPPROVAL.—Notwithstanding any other pro-
23 vision of law, if a joint resolution of disapproval re-
24 lating to a report submitted under subsection (a)(1)
25 proposing an action described in subsection (a)(2)

1 passes both Houses of Congress in accordance with
 2 subsection (c), the President may not take that ac-
 3 tion for a period of 12 calendar days after the date
 4 of passage of the joint resolution of disapproval.

5 (5) LIMITATION ON ACTIONS DURING CONGRES-
 6 SIONAL RECONSIDERATION OF A JOINT RESOLUTION
 7 OF DISAPPROVAL.—Notwithstanding any other pro-
 8 vision of law, if a joint resolution of disapproval re-
 9 lating to a report submitted under subsection (a)(1)
 10 proposing an action described in subsection (a)(2)
 11 passes both Houses of Congress in accordance with
 12 subsection (c), and the President vetoes the joint
 13 resolution, the President may not take that action
 14 for a period of 10 calendar days after the date of
 15 the President’s veto.

16 (6) EFFECT OF ENACTMENT OF A JOINT RESO-
 17 LUTION OF DISAPPROVAL.—Notwithstanding any
 18 other provision of law, if a joint resolution of dis-
 19 approval relating to a report submitted under sub-
 20 section (a)(1) proposing an action described in sub-
 21 section (a)(2) is enacted in accordance with sub-
 22 section (c), the President may not take that action.

23 (c) JOINT RESOLUTIONS OF DISAPPROVAL OR AP-
 24 PROVAL.—

25 (1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) JOINT RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL.—

The term “joint resolution of approval” means only a joint resolution of either House of Congress—

(i) the title of which is as follows: “A joint resolution approving the President’s proposal to take an action relating to the application of certain sanctions with respect to Iran.”; and

(ii) the sole matter after the resolving clause of which is the following: “Congress approves of the action relating to the application of sanctions imposed with respect to Iran proposed by the President in the report submitted to Congress under section 2(a)(1) of the Iran Sanctions Relief Review Act of 2021 on _____ relating to _____.”, with the first blank space being filled with the appropriate date and the second blank space being filled with a short description of the proposed action.

(B) JOINT RESOLUTION OF DIS-
APPROVAL.—The term “joint resolution of dis-

1 approval” means only a joint resolution of ei-
2 ther House of Congress—

3 (i) the title of which is as follows: “A
4 joint resolution disapproving the Presi-
5 dent’s proposal to take an action relating
6 to the application of certain sanctions with
7 respect to Iran.”; and

8 (ii) the sole matter after the resolving
9 clause of which is the following: “Congress
10 disapproves of the action relating to the
11 application of sanctions imposed with re-
12 spect to Iran proposed by the President in
13 the report submitted to Congress under
14 section 2(a)(1) of the Iran Sanctions Relief
15 Review Act of 2021 on _____
16 relating to _____.”, with the
17 first blank space being filled with the ap-
18 propriate date and the second blank space
19 being filled with a short description of the
20 proposed action.

21 (2) INTRODUCTION.—During the period of 30
22 calendar days provided for under subsection (b)(1),
23 including any additional period as applicable under
24 the exception provided in subsection (b)(2), a joint

1 resolution of approval or joint resolution of dis-
 2 approval may be introduced—

3 (A) in the House of Representatives, by
 4 the majority leader or the minority leader; and

5 (B) in the Senate, by the majority leader
 6 (or the majority leader's designee) or the mi-
 7 nority leader (or the minority leader's des-
 8 ignee).

9 (3) FLOOR CONSIDERATION IN HOUSE OF REP-
 10 REPRESENTATIVES.—If a committee of the House of
 11 Representatives to which a joint resolution of ap-
 12 proval or joint resolution of disapproval has been re-
 13 ferred has not reported the joint resolution within
 14 10 calendar days after the date of referral, that
 15 committee shall be discharged from further consider-
 16 ation of the joint resolution.

17 (4) CONSIDERATION IN THE SENATE.—

18 (A) COMMITTEE REFERRAL.—A joint reso-
 19 lution of approval or joint resolution of dis-
 20 approval introduced in the Senate shall be—

21 (i) referred to the Committee on
 22 Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs if
 23 the joint resolution relates to a report
 24 under subsection (a)(3)(A) that relates to
 25 an action that is not intended to signifi-

1 cantly alter United States foreign policy
2 with respect to Iran; and

3 (ii) referred to the Committee on For-
4 eign Relations if the joint resolution relates
5 to a report under subsection (a)(3)(B) that
6 relates to an action that is intended to sig-
7 nificantly alter United States foreign policy
8 with respect to Iran.

9 (B) REPORTING AND DISCHARGE.—If the
10 committee to which a joint resolution of ap-
11 proval or joint resolution of disapproval was re-
12 ferred has not reported the joint resolution
13 within 10 calendar days after the date of refer-
14 ral of the joint resolution, that committee shall
15 be discharged from further consideration of the
16 joint resolution and the joint resolution shall be
17 placed on the appropriate calendar.

18 (C) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—
19 Notwithstanding Rule XXII of the Standing
20 Rules of the Senate, it is in order at any time
21 after the Committee on Banking, Housing, and
22 Urban Affairs or the Committee on Foreign Re-
23 lations, as the case may be, reports a joint reso-
24 lution of approval or joint resolution of dis-
25 approval to the Senate or has been discharged

1 from consideration of such a joint resolution
 2 (even though a previous motion to the same ef-
 3 fect has been disagreed to) to move to proceed
 4 to the consideration of the joint resolution, and
 5 all points of order against the joint resolution
 6 (and against consideration of the joint resolu-
 7 tion) are waived. The motion to proceed is not
 8 debatable. The motion is not subject to a mo-
 9 tion to postpone. A motion to reconsider the
 10 vote by which the motion is agreed to or dis-
 11 agreed to shall not be in order.

12 (D) RULINGS OF THE CHAIR ON PROCE-
 13 DURE.—Appeals from the decisions of the Chair
 14 relating to the application of the rules of the
 15 Senate, as the case may be, to the procedure re-
 16 lating to a joint resolution of approval or joint
 17 resolution of disapproval shall be decided with-
 18 out debate.

19 (E) CONSIDERATION OF VETO MES-
 20 SAGES.—Debate in the Senate of any veto mes-
 21 sage with respect to a joint resolution of ap-
 22 proval or joint resolution of disapproval, includ-
 23 ing all debatable motions and appeals in con-
 24 nection with the joint resolution, shall be lim-
 25 ited to 10 hours, to be equally divided between,

1 and controlled by, the majority leader and the
2 minority leader or their designees.

3 (5) RULES RELATING TO SENATE AND HOUSE
4 OF REPRESENTATIVES.—

5 (A) TREATMENT OF SENATE JOINT RESO-
6 LUTION IN HOUSE.—In the House of Rep-
7 resentatives, the following procedures shall
8 apply to a joint resolution of approval or a joint
9 resolution of disapproval received from the Sen-
10 ate (unless the House has already passed a
11 joint resolution relating to the same proposed
12 action):

13 (i) The joint resolution shall be re-
14 ferred to the appropriate committees.

15 (ii) If a committee to which a joint
16 resolution has been referred has not re-
17 ported the joint resolution within 2 cal-
18 endar days after the date of referral, that
19 committee shall be discharged from further
20 consideration of the joint resolution.

21 (iii) Beginning on the third legislative
22 day after each committee to which a joint
23 resolution has been referred reports the
24 joint resolution to the House or has been
25 discharged from further consideration

1 thereof, it shall be in order to move to pro-
2 ceed to consider the joint resolution in the
3 House. All points of order against the mo-
4 tion are waived. Such a motion shall not be
5 in order after the House has disposed of a
6 motion to proceed on the joint resolution.
7 The previous question shall be considered
8 as ordered on the motion to its adoption
9 without intervening motion. The motion
10 shall not be debatable. A motion to recon-
11 sider the vote by which the motion is dis-
12 posed of shall not be in order.

13 (iv) The joint resolution shall be con-
14 sidered as read. All points of order against
15 the joint resolution and against its consid-
16 eration are waived. The previous question
17 shall be considered as ordered on the joint
18 resolution to final passage without inter-
19 vening motion except 2 hours of debate
20 equally divided and controlled by the spon-
21 sor of the joint resolution (or a designee)
22 and an opponent. A motion to reconsider
23 the vote on passage of the joint resolution
24 shall not be in order.

(B) TREATMENT OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION IN SENATE.—

(i) RECEIPT BEFORE PASSAGE.—If, before the passage by the Senate of a joint resolution of approval or joint resolution of disapproval, the Senate receives an identical joint resolution from the House of Representatives, the following procedures shall apply:

(I) That joint resolution shall not be referred to a committee.

(II) With respect to that joint resolution—

(aa) the procedure in the Senate shall be the same as if no joint resolution had been received from the House of Representatives; but

(bb) the vote on passage shall be on the joint resolution from the House of Representatives.

(ii) RECEIPT AFTER PASSAGE.—If, following passage of a joint resolution of approval or joint resolution of disapproval

1 in the Senate, the Senate receives an iden-
 2 tical joint resolution from the House of
 3 Representatives, that joint resolution shall
 4 be placed on the appropriate Senate cal-
 5 endar.

6 (iii) NO COMPANION MEASURE.—If a
 7 joint resolution of approval or a joint reso-
 8 lution of disapproval is received from the
 9 House, and no companion joint resolution
 10 has been introduced in the Senate, the
 11 Senate procedures under this subsection
 12 shall apply to the House joint resolution.

13 (C) APPLICATION TO REVENUE MEAS-
 14 URES.—The provisions of this paragraph shall
 15 not apply in the House of Representatives to a
 16 joint resolution of approval or joint resolution
 17 of disapproval that is a revenue measure.

18 (6) RULES OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
 19 AND SENATE.—This subsection is enacted by Con-
 20 gress—

21 (A) as an exercise of the rulemaking power
 22 of the Senate and the House of Representa-
 23 tives, respectively, and as such is deemed a part
 24 of the rules of each House, respectively, and su-

1 persedes other rules only to the extent that it
2 is inconsistent with such rules; and

3 (B) with full recognition of the constitu-
4 tional right of either House to change the rules
5 (so far as relating to the procedure of that
6 House) at any time, in the same manner, and
7 to the same extent as in the case of any other
8 rule of that House.

9 (d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES
10 AND LEADERSHIP DEFINED.—In this section, the term
11 “appropriate congressional committees and leadership”
12 means—

13 (1) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and
14 Urban Affairs, the Committee on Foreign Relations,
15 and the majority and minority leaders of the Senate;
16 and

17 (2) the Committee on Financial Services, the
18 Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Speaker, the
19 majority leader, and the minority leader of the
20 House of Representatives.

○