

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 1998

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 24, 2025

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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## AN ACT

To require the imposition of sanctions with respect to foreign persons engaged in piracy, and for other purposes.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Sanction Sea Pirates  
3 Act of 2025”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) In 2011, there were 212 attempted attacks  
7 against vessels off of the Somali coast, more than  
8 1,000 crew were held hostage, and 35 seafarers were  
9 killed.

10 (2) Over the past decade through the beginning  
11 of 2023, rates of piracy in the Western Indian  
12 Ocean subsided.

13 (3) Houthi attacks against commercial vessels  
14 in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden since the Hamas  
15 terrorist attack against Israel on October 7th have  
16 impacted global shipping markets.

17 (4) There has been a surge in Somali pirate at-  
18 tacks, beginning in the fall of 2023 and lasting into  
19 2024, that has coincided with and taken advantage  
20 of Houthi aggression.

21 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

22 It is the sense of Congress that—

23 (1) the United States Government should seek  
24 to stop piracy all around the world, including off the  
25 Somali Coast and in the Gulf of Aden; and

1           (2) the United States should seek to work with  
2           allies and partners around the globe to combat pi-  
3           racy around the globe and to curb the surge in pi-  
4           racy off of the coast of Somalia and in the Gulf of  
5           Aden.

6 **SEC. 4. SANCTIONS.**

7           (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The President shall impose sanc-  
8           tions described in subsection (b) with respect to any for-  
9           eign person the President determines knowingly engages  
10          in piracy.

11          (b) **SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.**—The sanctions de-  
12          scribed in this subsection are the following:

13               (1) **ASSET BLOCKING.**—Notwithstanding the re-  
14               quirements of section 202 of the International  
15               Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701),  
16               the President may exercise of all powers granted to  
17               the President by that Act to the extent necessary to  
18               block and prohibit all transactions in all property  
19               and interests in property of the foreign person if  
20               such property and interests in property are in the  
21               United States, come within the United States, or are  
22               or come within the possession or control of a United  
23               States person.

24               (2) **VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.**—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—An alien who the Sec-  
2 retary of State or the Secretary of Homeland  
3 Security (or a designee of one of such Secre-  
4 taries) knows, or has reason to believe, is de-  
5 scribed in subsection (a) is—

6 (i) inadmissible to the United States;

7 (ii) ineligible for a visa or other docu-  
8 mentation to enter the United States; and

9 (iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted  
10 or paroled into the United States or to re-  
11 ceive any other benefit under the Immigra-  
12 tion and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et  
13 seq.).

14 (B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

15 (i) IN GENERAL.—The issuing con-  
16 sular officer, the Secretary of State, or the  
17 Secretary of Homeland Security (or a des-  
18 ignee of one of such Secretaries) shall, in  
19 accordance with section 221(i) of the Im-  
20 migration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.  
21 1201(i)), revoke any visa or other entry  
22 documentation issued to an alien described  
23 in subparagraph (A) regardless of when  
24 the visa or other entry documentation is  
25 issued.

1 (ii) EFFECT OF REVOCATION.—A rev-  
2 ocation under clause (i)—

3 (I) shall take effect immediately;

4 and

5 (II) shall automatically cancel  
6 any other valid visa or entry docu-  
7 mentation that is in the alien's pos-  
8 session.

9 (c) EXCEPTIONS.—

10 (1) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTER-  
11 NATIONAL OBLIGATIONS.—Sanctions under sub-  
12 section (b)(2) shall not apply with respect to the ad-  
13 mission of an alien if admitting or paroling the alien  
14 into the United States is necessary to permit the  
15 United States to comply with the Agreement regard-  
16 ing the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed  
17 at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into  
18 force November 21, 1947, between the United Na-  
19 tions and the United States, or other applicable  
20 international obligations.

21 (2) EXCEPTION RELATING TO THE PROVISION  
22 OF HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE.—Sanctions under  
23 this section may not be imposed with respect to  
24 transactions or the facilitation of transactions for—

1 (A) the sale of agricultural commodities,  
2 food, medicine, or medical devices;

3 (B) the provision of humanitarian assist-  
4 ance;

5 (C) financial transactions relating to hu-  
6 manitarian assistance; or

7 (D) transporting goods or services that are  
8 necessary to carry out operations relating to  
9 humanitarian assistance.

10 (3) EXCEPTION FOR INTELLIGENCE, LAW EN-  
11 FORCEMENT, AND NATIONAL SECURITY ACTIVI-  
12 TIES.—Sanctions under this section shall not apply  
13 to any authorized intelligence, law enforcement, or  
14 national security activities of the United States.

15 (d) CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—In any judicial re-  
16 view of a determination made under this section, if the  
17 determination was based on classified information (as de-  
18 fined in section 1(a) of the Classified Information Proce-  
19 dures Act) such information may be submitted to the re-  
20 viewing court ex parte and in camera. This subsection may  
21 not be construed to confer or imply any right to judicial  
22 review.

23 (e) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

24 (1) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may ex-  
25 ercise all authorities provided to the President under

1 sections 203 and 205 of the International Emer-  
2 gency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and  
3 1704) to carry out this section.

4 (2) PENALTIES.—The penalties provided for in  
5 subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the Inter-  
6 national Emergency Economic Powers Act (50  
7 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to a person that violates,  
8 attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a  
9 violation of regulations promulgated to carry out  
10 this section to the same extent that such penalties  
11 apply to a person that commits an unlawful act de-  
12 scribed in section 206(a) of that Act.

13 (f) WAIVER.—The President may waive the applica-  
14 tion of sanctions imposed with respect to a foreign person  
15 under this section if the President certifies to the Com-  
16 mittee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives  
17 and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate  
18 not later than 15 days before such waiver is to take effect  
19 that the waiver is crucial to the national security interests  
20 of the United States.

21 (g) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF  
22 GOODS.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—The authorities and require-  
24 ments to impose sanctions authorized under this sec-

1       tion shall not include the authority or requirement  
2       to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

3           (2) GOOD DEFINED.—In this subsection, the  
4       term “good” means any article, natural or man-  
5       made substance, material, supply or manufactured  
6       product, including inspection and test equipment,  
7       and excluding technical data.

8       (h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9           (1) FOREIGN PERSON.—The term “foreign per-  
10       son” means an individual or entity that is not a  
11       United States person.

12           (2) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term  
13       “United States person” means—

14           (A) a United States citizen;

15           (B) a permanent resident alien of the  
16       United States; or

17           (C) an entity organized under the laws of  
18       the United States or of any jurisdiction within  
19       the United States, including a foreign branch of  
20       such an entity.



1           (3) PIRACY.—The term “piracy” means any act  
2           in violation of one or more provisions of chapter 81  
3           of title 18, United States Code.

Passed the House of Representatives June 23, 2025.

Attest:                   KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,  
*Clerk.*