

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To establish the Baltic Security Initiative for the purpose of strengthening the defensive capabilities of the Baltic countries, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To establish the Baltic Security Initiative for the purpose of strengthening the defensive capabilities of the Baltic countries, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Baltic Security Initia-
5 tive Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. BALTIC SECURITY INITIATIVE.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Defense
8 shall establish and carry out an initiative, to be known
9 as the “Baltic Security Initiative” (in this section referred

1 to as the “Initiative”) for the purpose of deepening secu-
2 rity cooperation with the Baltic countries.

3 (b) RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING AUTHORITIES.—

4 The Initiative required by subsection (a) shall be carried
5 out pursuant to the authorities provided in title 10, United
6 States Code.

7 (c) OBJECTIVES.—The objectives of the Initiative
8 shall be—

9 (1) to achieve United States national security
10 objectives by—

11 (A) deterring aggression by the Russian
12 Federation; and

13 (B) implementing the North Atlantic Trea-
14 ty Organization’s new Strategic Concept, which
15 seeks to strengthen the alliance’s deterrence
16 and defense posture by denying potential adver-
17 saries any possible opportunities for aggression;

18 (2) to enhance regional planning and coopera-
19 tion among the Baltic countries, particularly with re-
20 spect to long-term regional capability projects, in-
21 cluding—

22 (A) long-range precision fire systems and
23 capabilities;

24 (B) integrated air and missile defense;

25 (C) maritime domain awareness;

1 (D) land forces development, including
2 stockpiling large caliber ammunition;

3 (E) command, control, communications,
4 computers, intelligence, surveillance, and recon-
5 naissance;

6 (F) special operations forces development;

7 (G) coordination with and security en-
8 hancements for Poland, which is a neighboring
9 North Atlantic Treaty Organization ally; and

10 (H) other military capabilities, as deter-
11 mined by the Secretary of Defense; and

12 (3) to improve the Baltic countries' cyber de-
13 fenses and resilience to hybrid threats.

14 (d) STRATEGY.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
16 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
17 retary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report
18 setting forth a strategy for the Department of De-
19 fense to achieve the objectives described in sub-
20 section (b).

21 (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—The strategy required
22 by this subsection shall include a consideration of—

23 (A) security assistance programs for the
24 Baltic countries authorized as of the date on
25 which the strategy is submitted;

1 (B) the ongoing security threats to the
2 North Atlantic Treaty Organization’s eastern
3 flank posed by Russian aggression, including as
4 a result of the Russian Federation’s 2022 inva-
5 sion of Ukraine with support from Belarus; and

6 (C) the ongoing security threats to the
7 Baltic countries posed by the presence, coercive
8 economic policies, and other malign activities of
9 the People’s Republic of China.

10 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
12 appropriated to the Secretary of Defense
13 \$350,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2024,
14 2025, and 2026 to carry out the Initiative.

15 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
16 Congress that the Secretary of Defense should seek
17 to require matching funds from each of the Baltic
18 countries that participate in the Initiative in
19 amounts commensurate with amounts provided by
20 the Department of Defense for the Initiative.

21 (f) BALTIC COUNTRIES DEFINED.—In this section,
22 the term “Baltic countries” means—

- 23 (1) Estonia;
24 (2) Latvia; and
25 (3) Lithuania.