

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To strengthen strategic defense cooperation between the United States and
NATO allies on the Eastern Flank, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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

A BILL

To strengthen strategic defense cooperation between the
United States and NATO allies on the Eastern Flank,
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 “Eastern Flank Stra-
5 tegic Partnership Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) The frontline North Atlantic Treaty Organi-
9 zation (NATO) allies of Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland,

1 Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, and
2 Slovakia play a critical role in regional and trans-
3 atlantic security.

4 (2) Those NATO allies have demonstrated con-
5 sistent commitments to NATO defense spending tar-
6 gets, support for Ukraine, and forward deployments
7 to deter Russian aggression.

8 (3) Those NATO allies are on the front line of
9 deterring and defending against threats from Russia
10 and Belarus, and require continued United States
11 coordination, defense cooperation, and security as-
12 sistance.

13 (4) Ukraine is on the front line of United
14 States and NATO security, fighting to defend itself
15 against Russian aggression that could also be turned
16 upon those same NATO allies.

17 (5) The United States possesses existing au-
18 thorities and tools, including assistance under the
19 Foreign Military Financing program under section
20 23 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C.
21 2763), assistance under section 333 of title 10,
22 United States Code, transfer of excess defense arti-
23 cles under section 516 of the Foreign Assistance Act
24 of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321j), and the War Reserve
25 Stocks for Allies program administered under sec-

1 tion 514 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22
2 U.S.C. 2321h), that can be used to enhance resil-
3 ience, logistics, and interoperability with those
4 NATO allies.

5 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

6 In this Act:

7 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
8 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
9 mittees” means—

10 (A) the Committee on Armed Services of
11 the Senate; and

12 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of
13 the Senate.

14 (2) EASTERN FLANK STRATEGIC DEFENSE
15 PARTNER.—The term “Eastern Flank strategic de-
16 fense partner”—

17 (A) means a NATO member state that—

18 (i) shares a border with, or is in di-
19 rect geographic proximity to, the Russian
20 Federation, the Republic of Belarus, or
21 Ukraine, and plays a role in the defense of
22 NATO’s Eastern Flank due to its geo-
23 graphic proximity to those countries;

24 (ii) has committed to allocating 5 per-
25 cent of its gross domestic product annually

1 to defense by 2035, including at least 3.5
2 percent for meeting core defense require-
3 ments and NATO capability targets and
4 1.5 percent for other defense- and security-
5 related investments;

6 (iii) hosts or supports the forward de-
7 ployment of NATO military forces, includ-
8 ing rotational deployments; and

9 (iv) faces persistent threats from hos-
10 tile state actors; and

11 (B) includes Bulgaria, Estonia, Finland,
12 Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania,
13 and Slovakia.

14 **SEC. 4. POLICY AND PRIORITY FOR STRATEGIC DEFENSE**
15 **COOPERATION.**

16 (a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the
17 United States—

18 (1) to recognize the critical role of Eastern
19 Flank strategic defense partners in defending
20 NATO's Eastern Flank, deterring aggression from
21 hostile state actors, and advancing transatlantic se-
22 curity;

23 (2) to prioritize cooperation with Eastern Flank
24 strategic defense partners in the implementation of
25 defense cooperation authorities;

1 (3) to treat Eastern Flank strategic defense
2 partners as priority recipients of security assistance
3 under security assistance authorities; and

4 (4) to support Ukraine, including with the secu-
5 rity assistance necessary to deter Russian aggression
6 against allies along NATO's Eastern Flank.

7 (b) PRIORITY.—The Secretary of State and the Sec-
8 retary of Defense shall, as appropriate and consistent with
9 law, give priority to Eastern Flank strategic defense part-
10 ners for the following:

11 (1) Assistance under the Foreign Military Fi-
12 nancing program under section 23 of the Arms Ex-
13 port Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2763).

14 (2) Assistance under section 333 of title 10,
15 United States Code (relating to authority to build
16 the capacity of foreign security forces).

17 (3) Transfer of excess defense articles under
18 section 516 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961
19 (22 U.S.C. 2321j).

20 (4) Participation in bilateral and multilateral
21 military exercises, interoperability training, logistics,
22 and forward mobility planning.

23 (c) IMPLEMENTATION.—The policy established by
24 subsection (a) and the priority established by subsection
25 (b) shall be implemented to reinforce bilateral defense co-

1 operation arrangements, including defense cooperation
2 agreements, status of forces agreements, and other bilat-
3 eral or multilateral agreements.

4 **SEC. 5. STOCKPILING AND PRE-POSITIONING OF DEFENSE**
5 **ARTICLES.**

6 Consistent with operational requirements and in con-
7 sultation with NATO allies, and with the goal of increas-
8 ing regional deterrence and reducing strategic response
9 time, the Secretary of Defense shall—

10 (1) prioritize Eastern Flank strategic defense
11 partners under the War Reserve Stocks for Allies
12 program administered under section 514 of the For-
13 eign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321h); and

14 (2) consider expanding stockpiles under such
15 program in additional Eastern Flank strategic de-
16 fense partner countries, as appropriate.

17 **SEC. 6. CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING.**

18 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
19 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination
20 with the Secretary of State, shall brief the appropriate
21 congressional committees on the implementation of sec-
22 tions 3 and 4, including timelines, goals, and cooperative
23 mechanisms.