

Calendar No. _____

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION**S. 1000**

To establish an Ambassador-at-Large for Arctic Affairs.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 12, 2025

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. KING, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. COONS, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. WELCH, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. BENNET) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

_____ (legislative day, _____), _____

Reported by Mr. RISCH, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

A BILL

To establish an Ambassador-at-Large for Arctic Affairs.

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. AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE FOR ARCTIC AFFAIRS.**
 4 Title I of the State Department Basic Authorities Act
 5 of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a et seq.) is amended by adding
 6 at the end the following new section:

1 **“SEC. 65. UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE FOR**
2 **ARCTIC AFFAIRS.**

3 “(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is authorized within
4 the Department of State an Ambassador-at-Large for Arctic
5 Affairs, appointed under subsection (b).

6 “(b) **APPOINTMENT.**—The Ambassador shall be ap-
7 pointed by the President, by, and with the advice and con-
8 sent of the Senate.

9 “(c) **DUTIES.**—The Ambassador is authorized to rep-
10 resent the United States in matters and cases relevant to
11 Arctic affairs and shall be responsible to the Secretary of
12 State for all matters, programs, and related activities per-
13 taining to the Arctic region in the conduct of foreign policy
14 by the Department, including, as appropriate, leading the
15 coordination of programs carried out by United States
16 Government agencies abroad, and such other related du-
17 ties as the Secretary may from time to time designate.

18 “(d) **AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY.**—The Ambassador-
19 at-Large for Arctic Affairs is authorized to maintain con-
20 tinuous observation and coordination of all matters indi-
21 cated by the Secretary of State, including those pertaining
22 to energy, environment, trade, and infrastructure develop-
23 ment and maintenance; and, in consultation with the
24 heads of other relevant departments and agencies, those
25 pertaining to law enforcement and political-military affairs
26 in the conduct of foreign policy in the Arctic, including

1 programs carried out by other United States Government
2 agencies when such programs pertain to the following mat-
3 ters, to the extent directed by the Secretary of State:

4 “(1) National security.

5 “(2) Strengthening cooperation among Arctic
6 countries.

7 “(3) The promotion of responsible natural re-
8 source management and economic development.

9 “(4) Protecting the Arctic environment and
10 conserving its biological resources.

11 “(5) Arctic indigenous peoples, including by in-
12 volving them in decisions that affect them.

13 “(6) Scientific monitoring and research.

14 “(e) ADDITIONAL DUTIES.—In addition to the duties
15 and responsibilities specified in subsections (c) and (d),
16 the Ambassador-at-Large for Arctic Affairs shall also
17 carry out such other relevant duties as the Secretary may
18 assign.

19 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 “(1) ARCTIC REGION.—The term ‘Arctic region’
21 means—

22 “(A) the geographic region north of the
23 66.56083 parallel latitude north of the equator;

1 “(B) all the United States territory north
2 and west of the boundary formed by the Porcu-
3 pine, Yukon, and Kuskokwim Rivers;

4 “(C) all contiguous seas, including the Ar-
5 ctic Ocean and the Beaufort, Bering, and
6 Chukchi Seas; and

7 “(D) the Aleutian Chain.

8 “(2) ARCTIC COUNTRIES.—The term ‘Arctic
9 countries’ means the permanent members of the
10 Arctic Council, namely the United States, Canada,
11 Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, and
12 Russia.”.

13 **SECTION 1. AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE FOR ARCTIC AFFAIRS.**

14 *Title I of the State Department Basic Authorities Act*
15 *of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a et seq.) is amended by adding*
16 *at the end the following new section:*

17 **“SEC. 66. UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE FOR**
18 **ARCTIC AFFAIRS.**

19 “(a) *ESTABLISHMENT.*—*There is authorized within*
20 *the Department of State an Ambassador-at-Large for Arctic*
21 *Affairs, appointed under subsection (b).*

22 “(b) *APPOINTMENT.*—*The Ambassador shall be ap-*
23 *pointed by the President, by, and with the advice and con-*
24 *sent of the Senate.*

1 “(c) *DUTIES.—The Ambassador shall carry out the fol-*
2 *lowing duties:*

3 “(1) *Advance United States interests in the Arc-*
4 *tic region.*

5 “(2) *Engage with foreign governments, intergov-*
6 *ernmental organizations, the Arctic Council, and*
7 *other international or multilateral organizations of*
8 *which the United States is a member or has observer*
9 *status and which advance United States interests in*
10 *the Arctic region.*

11 “(3) *Facilitate the development and coordination*
12 *of United States foreign policy and programs in the*
13 *Arctic region.*

14 “(4) *Coordinate with relevant offices, bureaus,*
15 *and interagency partners on efforts to counter the*
16 *malign influence of the Russian Federation and the*
17 *People’s Republic of China in Arctic nations and Arc-*
18 *tic multilateral fora and organizations.*

19 “(5) *Coordinate the diplomatic objectives with*
20 *respect to the activities described in paragraph (1),*
21 *and, as appropriate, represent the United States*
22 *within multilateral fora that address international*
23 *cooperation and foreign policy matters in the Arctic*
24 *region.*

1 “(6) *Help inform, in coordination with the Bu-*
2 *reau of Economic Affairs, transnational commerce*
3 *and commercial maritime transit in the Arctic re-*
4 *gion.*

5 “(7) *Ensure, in coordination with the Bureau of*
6 *Oceans and International Environmental and Sci-*
7 *entific Affairs, that scientific data, environmental*
8 *monitoring, and scientific research cooperation is*
9 *consistent with regional security planning programs*
10 *and research security best practices in the Depart-*
11 *ment of State and other relevant Departments and*
12 *agencies.*

13 “(8) *Consult, as appropriate, with Arctic indige-*
14 *nous communities, including by ensuring equal appli-*
15 *cation and full protection of laws relating to invest-*
16 *ment screening, foreign influence, and other relevant*
17 *national security regulations and statutes.*

18 “(9) *Ensure that all actions taken to perform the*
19 *duties described in this subsection are consistent with*
20 *the Arctic Region Security Policy in accordance with*
21 *subsection (f).*

22 “(10) *Use the voice, vote, and influence of the*
23 *United States to encourage other countries and inter-*
24 *national multilateral organizations to support the*

1 *principles of the Arctic Region Security Policy imple-*
2 *mented pursuant to subsection (f).*

3 “(d) *AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY.—The Ambassador-*
4 *at-Large for Arctic Affairs is authorized to maintain con-*
5 *tinuous observation and coordination on matters related to*
6 *the following:*

7 “(1) *Institutions for cooperation among the Arc-*
8 *tic countries.*

9 “(2) *Scientific monitoring and research on local,*
10 *regional, and global environmental issues.*

11 “(3) *Responsible natural resource management*
12 *and economic development.*

13 “(e) *ADDITIONAL DUTIES.—In addition to the duties*
14 *and responsibilities specified in subsections (c) and (d), the*
15 *Ambassador-at-Large for Arctic Affairs shall also carry out*
16 *such other relevant duties as the Secretary of State may*
17 *assign.*

18 “(f) *ARCTIC REGION SECURITY POLICY.—The Bureau*
19 *of European and Eurasian Affairs shall be the lead bureau*
20 *for developing and implementing the United States’ Arctic*
21 *Region Security Policy, in coordination with other relevant*
22 *regional and functional bureaus and offices and relevant*
23 *Federal departments and agencies to advance United States*
24 *national security interests. The Arctic Region Security Pol-*
25 *icy shall advance United States national security interests*

1 *by assessing, developing, budgeting for, and implementing*
2 *plans, policies, and actions—*

3 “(1) *to bolster the diplomatic presence of the*
4 *United States in Arctic countries, including through*
5 *enhancements to diplomatic missions and facilities,*
6 *participation in regional and bilateral dialogues that*
7 *advance United States interests related to Arctic secu-*
8 *urity, and coordination of United States initiatives*
9 *and assistance programs across agencies to protect the*
10 *national security of the United States and its allies*
11 *and partners;*

12 “(2) *to enhance the resilience of Arctic countries*
13 *to the economic, environmental, and security effects*
14 *that may result from increased accessibility of the*
15 *Arctic region;*

16 “(3) *to assess specific added risks to the Arctic*
17 *region and Arctic countries that—*

18 “(A) *are vulnerable to the changing Arctic*
19 *environment; and*

20 “(B) *are strategically significant to the*
21 *United States;*

22 “(4) *to advance principles of good governance by*
23 *encouraging and cooperating with Arctic countries on*
24 *collaborative approaches—*

1 “(A) to responsibly manage natural re-
2 sources in the Arctic region;

3 “(B) to share the burden of ensuring mari-
4 time safety in the Arctic region;

5 “(C) to address challenges posed by the
6 militarization of the Arctic region by the Rus-
7 sian Federation;

8 “(D) to address growing security coopera-
9 tion in the Arctic region by the Russian Federa-
10 tion and People’s Republic of China and the im-
11 plications for United States national security in-
12 terests and Arctic security;

13 “(E) to develop multilateral policies among
14 Arctic countries on the management of maritime
15 transit routes through the Arctic region and
16 work cooperatively on the transit policies for ac-
17 cess to and transit in the Arctic Region by non-
18 Arctic countries; and

19 “(F) to facilitate the development of Arctic
20 Region Security Action Plans to ensure effective
21 implementation of the objectives identified in the
22 Arctic Region Security Policy;

23 “(5) to evaluate the vulnerability, security, sur-
24 vivability, and resiliency of United States interests in
25 the Arctic region;

1 “(6) to counter malign influence from the Rus-
2 sian Federation and the People’s Republic of China
3 in Arctic countries and Arctic multilateral fora, in-
4 cluding through the exploitation or manipulation
5 of—

6 “(A) science and research partnerships or
7 organizations;

8 “(B) economic development projects in stra-
9 tegic sectors including transportation, energy,
10 and telecommunications;

11 “(C) educational, cultural, and religious or-
12 ganizations; and

13 “(D) engagements with subnational and in-
14 digenous governance structures; and

15 “(7) to increase coordination among North At-
16 lantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Arctic allies on
17 the protection of critical infrastructure, including en-
18 ergy, telecommunications, and scientific infrastruc-
19 ture.

20 “(g) RESTRICTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS.—

21 “(1) SCOPE OF AUTHORITY.—The Ambassador-
22 at-Large for Arctic Affairs and any other personnel
23 assigned to this office shall not have any authority,
24 or role in decision-making on United States domestic
25 policy issues beyond those directly related to United

1 *States foreign policy with international partners and*
2 *stakeholders in the Arctic region.*

3 “(2) *BRIEFINGS REQUIREMENT.—The Ambas-*
4 *sador-at-Large for Arctic Affairs shall provide peri-*
5 *odic briefings to the Senate Foreign Relations Com-*
6 *mittee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee on*
7 *diplomatic engagements in the Arctic.*

8 “(3) *GUIDANCE RELATED TO ATTENDANCE AND*
9 *PARTICIPATION AT ARCTIC CONFERENCES AND MULTI-*
10 *LATERAL FORA.—The Secretary shall disseminate*
11 *guidance, in coordination with the Bureau of Diplo-*
12 *matic Security and relevant interagency partners, for*
13 *the attendance and participation of United States*
14 *Government officials at Arctic conferences and multi-*
15 *lateral fora, taking into consideration—*

16 “(A) *the potential for United States Govern-*
17 *ment attendance to advance United States na-*
18 *tional security and foreign policy objectives; and*

19 “(B) *the degree to which the organization*
20 *hosting or funding a conference or other event is*
21 *funded, controlled, or advances the interests of*
22 *the Russian Federation or People’s Republic of*
23 *China.*

24 “(h) *DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

1 “(1) *ARCTIC COUNTRIES.*—*The term ‘Arctic*
2 *countries’ means the permanent members of the Arctic*
3 *Council, namely the United States, Canada, Den-*
4 *mark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Rus-*
5 *sia.*

6 “(2) *ARCTIC REGION.*—*The term ‘Arctic region’*
7 *means—*

8 “(A) *the geographic region north of the*
9 *66.56083 parallel latitude north of the equator;*

10 “(B) *all the United States territory north*
11 *and west of the boundary formed by the Porcu-*
12 *pine, Yukon, and Kuskokwim Rivers;*

13 “(C) *all contiguous seas, including the Arc-*
14 *tic Ocean and the Beaufort, Bering, and Chukchi*
15 *Seas; and*

16 “(D) *the Aleutian Chain.*”.

17 **SEC. 2. REPORTS.**

18 (a) *REPORT ON RUSSIAN AND CHINESE MALIGN IN-*
19 *FLUENCE IN THE ARCTIC REGION.*—

20 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than 180 days after*
21 *the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually*
22 *thereafter, the Secretary of State, in coordination*
23 *with the Director of National Intelligence, the Sec-*
24 *retary of Defense, and other relevant Departments*
25 *and Federal agencies, shall submit to the Committee*

1 *on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee*
2 *on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a*
3 *report on Russian and Chinese malign influence in*
4 *the Arctic region.*

5 (2) *CONTENTS.—The report required under*
6 *paragraph (1) shall—*

7 (A) *examine the Arctic strategies of Russia*
8 *and China and their impact on United States*
9 *national security, scientific, and foreign policy*
10 *interests in the region;*

11 (B) *examine Russian and Chinese coopera-*
12 *tion in the Arctic region and implications for*
13 *the United States;*

14 (C) *examine the efforts of Russia and China*
15 *to advance their strategic interests in the Arctic*
16 *region through exploiting, manipulating, or co-*
17 *opting non-governmental and international or-*
18 *ganizations in the Arctic region;*

19 (D) *provide a list of multilateral engage-*
20 *ments and conferences attended by the Amba-*
21 *sador-at-Large for Arctic Affairs during the re-*
22 *porting period and an explanation of how such*
23 *engagements countered Russian and Chinese in-*
24 *fluence and advanced United States national se-*
25 *curity and foreign policy interests;*

1 (E) examine Russian and Chinese efforts to
2 gain control and influence over key sectors in the
3 Arctic region, including critical minerals, en-
4 ergy, transportation, and fishing;

5 (F) assess Russian and Chinese efforts to ex-
6 ploit scientific and academic research in the Arc-
7 tic, including through research partnerships with
8 academic institutions in the United States and
9 other Arctic countries; and

10 (G) assess the tools, resources, and funding
11 available to counter Russian and Chinese influ-
12 ence in the Arctic region.

13 (3) *FORM.*—The report required under para-
14 graph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form,
15 with a classified annex.

16 (4) *SUNSET.*—The reporting requirement in this
17 section shall expire on the date that is 10 years after
18 the date of the enactment of this Act.