

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To require the Department of State to create and implement a process for better supporting new diplomatic missions.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. RISCII introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To require the Department of State to create and implement a process for better supporting new diplomatic missions.

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 “Embassy in a Box Act  
5 of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

7 The purpose of this Act is to equip the Department  
8 of State with the tools necessary to stand up new diplo-  
9 matic missions efficiently and effectively in advance of  
10 United States strategic interests around the world. An

1 “embassy in a box” approach establishes expedited pro-  
2 cesses to provide the physical resources new diplomatic mis-  
3 sions needed, particularly in austere locations.

4 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress makes the following findings:

6 (1) Increasing the United States’ global diplo-  
7 matic footprint is imperative to advance United  
8 States’ national security interests, particularly in the  
9 face of a massive diplomatic expansion of the Peo-  
10 ple’s Republic of China.

11 (2) Adding more diplomatic missions, often in  
12 small island nations in the Pacific and Indian  
13 Oceans as well as the Caribbean Sea, will lay down  
14 the diplomatic infrastructure needed to compete with  
15 the People’s Republic of China.

16 (3) Diplomatic missions should be resourced  
17 and equipped for success as soon as, or even before,  
18 they open in order to allow diplomats to focus on ad-  
19 vancing United States national interests in-country,  
20 instead of navigating bureaucratic processes.

21 (4) Successfully opening new missions is not  
22 simply a choice between expediency and quality. The  
23 United States can move more swiftly to open new  
24 missions while still putting United States diplomats  
25 in a positions to get to work immediately.

1           (5) To avoid this binary, the Department of  
2       State has to reduce the bureaucratic obstacles inhibi-  
3       ting current and future diplomats at new missions,  
4       while positively identifying ways that the Depart-  
5       ment can best support them.

6       **SEC. 4. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

7       (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the  
8       date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State  
9       shall submit to appropriate congressional committees a re-  
10      port on how the Department of State is creating an “em-  
11      bassy in a box” concept to provide new missions the need-  
12      ed resources and authorities to successfully and quickly  
13      stand up and operate a mission from the moment United  
14      States personnel arrive, or even before the opening of a  
15      new mission, to immediately begin advancing United  
16      States national interests.

17      (b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under sub-  
18      section (a) shall include—

19           (1) a list of authorities and processes related to  
20      the opening of new missions;

21           (2) a list of authorities and processes related to  
22      the opening of new missions that the Department  
23      has waived or moved away from in order to expedi-  
24      ently stand up new missions, particularly in small is-  
25      land nations;

1           (3) a list of equipment that should be provided  
2 to each new mission, the approval of which will be  
3 handled prior to or shortly after the opening of the  
4 mission and will not be the responsibility of the mis-  
5 sion, including—

6                   (A) an authorization of one vehicle per De-  
7 partment of State direct hire; or

8                   (B) enough vehicles in motor pool to ade-  
9 quately serve fully all Department of State di-  
10 rect hires;

11           (4) required support staff who are assigned to  
12 a new mission, including those who may not be resi-  
13 dent at a new mission;

14           (5) processes or traditional requirements for an  
15 embassy that are being eliminated or reimaged;

16           (6) the cost of paying a 20 percent differential  
17 rate specifically for United States direct hires who  
18 are accredited to any new United States mission  
19 with a hardship differential of 20 percent or more  
20 for the first ten years of its existence; and

21           (7) any other authorities or processes that may  
22 be required to successfully and quickly stand up a  
23 new United States mission, including any new au-  
24 thorities the Department may need.

1 **SEC. 5. DELEGATING AUTHORITIES TO SENIOR OFFICIAL**  
2 **TO LEAD NEW EMBASSY EXPANSION.**

3 (a) **DELEGATION.**—The Secretary of State and the  
4 Under Secretary of State for Management shall delegate  
5 all needed authorities to expedite the creation of new mis-  
6 sions abroad, as well as their continued management and  
7 operational support, to the Director of the Office of Man-  
8 agement Strategy and Solutions.

9 (b) **RESPONSIBILITIES.**—The Director of the Office  
10 of Management Strategy and Solutions shall be respon-  
11 sible for—

12 (1) expediting the resourcing of new diplomatic  
13 missions by temporarily waiving or reducing proce-  
14 sses needed to open new missions, as conditions  
15 within the host country may require;

16 (2) when necessary, quickly adjudicating within  
17 the Department any obstacles that arise during the  
18 planning and execution phases of the establishment  
19 of a new mission;

20 (3) ensuring new missions receive the manage-  
21 ment and operational support needed so that per-  
22 sonnel can focus on diplomacy and not administra-  
23 tive challenges; and

24 (4) ensuring that the authorities provided in the  
25 Secure Embassy Construction and Counterterrorism  
26 Act of 1999 (title VI of division A of appendix G of

1 Public Law 106–113), as amended by the the Secure  
2 Embassy Construction and Counterterrorism Act of  
3 2022 (section 9301 of Public Law 117–263; 136  
4 Stat. 3879), are fully utilized in the planning for all  
5 new United States missions.

6 **SEC. 6. IMPLEMENTING THE SECURE EMBASSY CONSTRUC-**  
7 **TION AND COUNTERTERRORISM ACT OF 2022.**

8 Not later than 60 days after the date of the enact-  
9 ment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

10 (1) promulgate new policies and procedures  
11 consistent with the Secure Embassy Construction  
12 and Counterterrorism Act of 1999 (title VI of divi-  
13 sion A of appendix G of Public Law 106–113), as  
14 amended by the the Secure Embassy Construction  
15 and Counterterrorism Act of 2022 (section 9301 of  
16 Public Law 117–263; 136 Stat. 3879); and

17 (2) submit a report to the appropriate congres-  
18 sional committees detailing such policies and proce-  
19 dures and the impact of implementation on overseas  
20 facilities and out-year embassy construction projects.

21 **SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.**

22 In this Act:

23 (1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-**  
24 **TEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional com-  
25 mittees” means—

1           (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations  
2           and the Committee on Appropriations of the  
3           Senate; and

4           (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations  
5           and the Committee on Appropriations of the  
6           House of Representatives.

7           (2) NEW DIPLOMATIC MISSION.—The term  
8           “new diplomatic mission” means any bilateral diplo-  
9           matic mission opened since January 1, 2020, in a  
10          country where there had not been a bilateral diplo-  
11          matic mission since the date that is 20 years before  
12          the date of the enactment of this Act.

13 **SEC. 8. SUNSET.**

14          The authorities and requirements of this Act shall  
15          terminate ten years after the date of the enactment of this  
16          Act.