

Lebanon Sanctions, Stabilization, and Support Act

Opportunity: Direct negotiations and the trilateral framework between the U.S., Israel, and Lebanon present a critical opportunity to ensure disarmament of Hezbollah, fully integrate Lebanese communities previously reliant on Hezbollah into the Lebanese state, and build toward peaceful relations between Lebanon and Israel. Lebanon must establish state sovereignty over its territory and free itself from Iran's malign influence through Hezbollah. This bill provides: (1) pressure through sanctions, (2) stabilization assistance to give communities an alternative to dependence on Hezbollah services, (3) security force capacity through conditional support commensurate with performance against Hezbollah, and (4) robust congressional oversight.

Sanctions for the following actions:

- Facilitation of Iran's illicit financing and support of Hezbollah.
- Impeding the work of the Lebanese Armed Forces to disarm Hezbollah.
- Impeding reform of the financial sector that is used to illicitly fund Hezbollah.

Stabilization to integrate communities into the state and provide an alternative to Hezbollah:

- Recovery of infrastructure and civil services run by the state, as opposed to Hezbollah.
- Support for humanitarian aid to reinforce state legitimacy.

Security assistance to build force capacity to counter Hezbollah:

- Security support conditional on and commensurate with performance against Hezbollah.
- Strengthen Lebanese security forces' ability to interdict the smuggling of weapons, munitions, Captagon, and sensitive goods that support Hezbollah operations.

Recurring oversight of:

- Lebanese plan and progress on disarming Hezbollah and U.S. monitoring mechanisms.
- Strategy for use of stabilization and security funds to provide alternative to Hezbollah.
- Efforts to bolster multinational military and intelligence coordination with measurable objectives and time-bound metrics and to secure funding from international donors.

Background: After years of Iranian influence through Hezbollah, a banking sector crisis, and stalls in government formation, Lebanon's reform-minded government is the best chance in decades to secure a safe and prosperous future—but more is urgently needed. With the support of the United States to coordinate with the Israel Defense Forces, the Lebanese Armed Forces have made some progress in disarming Hezbollah. However, more is needed. Iran's illicit financing and support to Hezbollah is a significant impediment preventing the government and security forces from completing the disarmament mission. 1.2 million people, mainly Shia, have been displaced from southern Lebanon into Christian, Druze, and Sunni communities, risking another regional crisis. To ensure the responsibility for progress against Hezbollah can be fulfilled by the Lebanese state, this bill mandates sanctions on those slowing progress, incentivizes stabilization of the country and integration of all communities under the state, and conditionally supports Lebanon's trusted security institutions commensurate with their performance.