VERDAD ACT

Venezuela Emergency Relief, Democracy Assistance, and Development Act of 2019

Cosponsors: Senators Menendez (D-NJ), Rubio (R-FL), Durbin (D-IL), Cruz (R-TX), Cardin (D-MD), Cornyn (R-TX), Kaine (D-VA), Young (R-IN), Shaheen (D-NH), Graham (R-SC), Bennet (D-CO), Barrasso (R-WY), Coons (D-DE), Cassidy (R-LA), Hawley (R-MO).

Title I – Support for the Interim President of Venezuela and Recognition of the Venezuelan National Assembly

Section 101 Sense of Congress in support of the Interim President of Venezuela. Supports the more than 50 countries that have recognized Venezuela’s Interim President.

Section 102 Recognition of Venezuela’s democratically-elected National Assembly. Recognizes National Assembly as Venezuela’s remaining democratic institution.

Section 103 Advancing a negotiated solution to Venezuela’s crisis. Establishes U.S. policy to pursue a peaceful, diplomatic solution to the Venezuelan crisis, despite the Maduro government’s unwillingness to commit to a credible negotiation process.

Title II – Humanitarian Relief for Venezuela

Section 201 Humanitarian relief for the Venezuelan people. Authorizes $200 million in assistance for addressing Venezuela’s internal humanitarian crisis.

Section 202 Humanitarian assistance to Venezuelans in neighboring countries Authorizes $200 million in assistance to address challenges posed by growing outward migration from Venezuela.

Section 203 Requirement for strategy to coordinate international humanitarian assistance. Requires the State Department to hold a donors conference to coordinate international funding to address Venezuela’s humanitarian crisis.

Section 204 Support for efforts at the United Nations on the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela. Requires the U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations to expand efforts in the UN Security Council and UN agencies to address Venezuela’s crisis.

Section 205 Sanctions exception for humanitarian assistance. Codifies an exception in U.S. sanctions for humanitarian aid, food, and medicines.

Title III – Addressing Regime Cohesion

Section 301 Classified report on declining cohesion inside the Venezuelan military and the Maduro regime. Require intelligence reporting on dynamics inside the Venezuelan security forces and the Maduro regime.
Section 302  Additional restrictions on visas. *Prohibits and rescinds visas for the family members of sanctioned individuals and waives the visa restrictions on family members if the sanctioned individual recognizes Venezuela’s Interim President.*

Section 303  Waiver for sanctioned officials that recognize the Interim President of Venezuela. *Removes sanctions on sanctioned individuals not involved in human rights abuses if they recognize Venezuela’s Interim President.*

**Title IV – Restoring Democracy and Addressing the Political Crisis in Venezuela**

Section 401  Special Envoy for Venezuela and Task Force on Venezuela. *Codifies a special envoy for Venezuela; establishes an interagency task force reporting to the envoy.*

Section 402  Support for the Lima Group. *Congressional support for the Lima Group*

Section 403  Accountability for crimes against humanity. *Congressional support for efforts to hold Venezuelan officials accountable for crimes against humanity.*

Section 404  Upholding the Organization of American States Inter-American Democratic Charter. *Congressional support for efforts by the OAS Secretary General to forge a hemispheric response to the Venezuelan crisis, including invoking the Inter-American Democratic Charter.*

Section 405  Support for international election observation and democratic civil society in Venezuela. *Authorizes $14.5 million for supporting democratic civil society, $500,000 for international observation of future democratic elections.*

**Title V – Advancing the Reconstruction of Venezuela**

Section 501  Engaging international financial institutions to advance the reconstruction of Venezuela’s economy and energy infrastructure. *Requires the President to work with the IMF and Multilateral Development Banks to advance planning for the economic reconstruction of Venezuela, contingent on restoring democracy.*

Section 502  Recovering assets stolen from the Venezuelan people. *Requires the State Department to work with the Departments of Treasury and Justice to establish a strategy to identify, block, and recover assets taken from the people and institutions of Venezuela through theft, money laundering or other illicit means.*

**Title VI – Restoring the Rule of Law in Venezuela**

Section 601  Coordinating targeted sanctions with partners in the Western Hemisphere and European Union. *Requires the State Department to coordinate international sanctions and build the capacity of Latin American and Caribbean governments to carry out targeted sanctions; authorizes $3 million for related efforts.*
Section 602  Classified briefing on Venezuelan officials in corruption and illicit narcotics trafficking. *Require intelligence reporting on Venezuelan officials’ involvement in illicit activities, including drug trafficking.*

Section 603  Sanctions on persons responsible for public corruption and undermining democratic governance. *Codifies two lines of targeted sanctions established under Executive Order 13692.*

Section 604  Public information about sanctioned officials. *Requires the Treasury Department to publish information about the value of assets blocked under targeted sanctions.*

Section 605  Financial sanctions on Maduro regime debt. *Codifies Executive Order 13808.*

Section 606  Additional financial sanctions on Maduro debt. *Codifies Executive Order 13835.*

Section 607  Expanding Kingpin sanctions on narcotics trafficking and money laundering. *Requires increased application of Kingpin sanctions designations*

Section 608  Sanctions on the Maduro regime’s trade in gold. *Codifies Executive Order 13850.*

Section 609  Concerns over PDVSA transactions with Rosneft. *Requires the President to take all necessary steps to prevent Rosneft from gaining control of U.S. energy infrastructure.*

Section 610  Classified briefing on activities of certain foreign governments and actors in Venezuela. *Requires intelligence reporting on the activities of foreign governments and non-governmental actors in Venezuela.*

**Title V – Cryptocurrency Sanctions and Ensuring the Effectiveness of U.S. Sanctions**

Section 701  Sanctions on Venezuela’s cryptocurrency and the provision of related technologies. *Codifies Executive Order 13827.*


**Title VI – Miscellaneous Provisions**

Section 801  Congressional briefings. *Requires briefings on provisions in the bill.*

Section 802  Extension and termination of sanctions against Venezuela. *Sets the termination of this Act and extends the termination of the Venezuela Defense of Human Rights and Civil Society Act for December 31, 2025.*