

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1229

To enhance bilateral defense cooperation between the United States and Israel, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 12, 2025

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina (for himself and Mr. NORCROSS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To enhance bilateral defense cooperation between the United States and Israel, 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 “United States-Israel
5 Defense Partnership Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that—

8 (1) the United States and Israel—

1 (A) are bound closely by historic and cul-
2 tural ties and mutual interests; and

3 (B) face common threats, which are con-
4 stantly evolving in scope, scale, and lethality;

5 (2) to most effectively counter such shared
6 threats, the United States and Israel must expand
7 their defense partnership to develop new technologies
8 and leverage the unique capabilities offered by de-
9 fense industrial base of each country; and

10 (3) this Act furthers such goal through the es-
11 tablishment of several joint initiatives.

12 **SEC. 3. UNITED STATES-ISRAEL PROGRAM ON COUN-**
13 **TERING UNMANNED SYSTEMS.**

14 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
15 ings:

16 (1) The increasing use of unmanned systems by
17 state and nonstate actors poses a significant threat
18 to the national security of the United States and its
19 allies, including Israel.

20 (2) Cooperation in developing and deploying
21 counter-unmanned systems technology will enhance
22 mutual security and strengthen bilateral defense ca-
23 pabilities.

24 (3) Israel is a global leader in the development
25 of advanced counter-unmanned systems technologies,

1 and a cooperative program will leverage shared ex-
2 pertise and resources to address evolving threats.

3 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense,
5 with the concurrence of the Minister of Defense of
6 Israel, shall establish a cooperative program between
7 the United States and Israel, to be known as the
8 “United States-Israel Counter-Unmanned Systems
9 Program”, for the purpose of enhancing cooperation
10 between the United States and Israel for purposes
11 of—

12 (A) developing, testing, evaluating, and de-
13 ploying advanced technologies for countering
14 unmanned systems that threaten the United
15 States and Israel;

16 (B) sharing technical expertise and data
17 on emerging unmanned systems and related
18 threats;

19 (C) conducting joint research and develop-
20 ment initiatives; and

21 (D) deploying and integrating counter-un-
22 manned systems for mutual defense.

23 (2) ACTIVITIES.—The program established
24 under this subsection shall include the following:

1 (A) Collaborative research initiatives in-
2 volving government, private sector, and aca-
3 demic institutions in the United States and
4 Israel, conducted in a manner that protects sen-
5 sitive technology and information and the na-
6 tional security interests of the United States
7 and Israel.

8 (B) Joint training exercises and informa-
9 tion-sharing mechanisms to enhance operational
10 readiness of personnel of the United States and
11 of Israel.

12 (C) The establishment, within the Depart-
13 ment of Defense, of a United States-Israel
14 Counter-Unmanned Systems Program Office to
15 oversee program execution and coordination.

16 (D) The procurement and deployment of
17 counter-unmanned systems.

18 (c) ANNUAL REPORT.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
20 the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually
21 thereafter, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to
22 the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate and
23 the Committee on Armed Services of the House of
24 Representatives a report on the implementation of
25 the program established under this section.

1 (2) ELEMENTS.—Each report required by para-
2 graph (1) shall include, for the preceding year—

3 (A) a description of activities conducted
4 under the program;

5 (B) an assessment of progress made in ad-
6 dressing unmanned systems threats and re-
7 quirements;

8 (C) an assessment of the program’s col-
9 laboration with other relevant United States
10 Government programs, including the United
11 States-Israel Operations-Technology Working
12 Group and Counter Unmanned Aerial Systems
13 program run by the Irregular Warfare Tech-
14 nical Support Directorate; and

15 (D) recommendations for future program
16 activities and funding.

17 (3) FORM.—Each report submitted under para-
18 graph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form but
19 may include a classified annex as necessary to pro-
20 tect sensitive information.

21 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
22 authorized to be appropriated \$150,000,000 for each of
23 fiscal years 2026 through 2030 to carry out the program
24 under this section.

1 (e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
 2 tion shall be construed to alter or supersede agreements
 3 or obligations between the United States and Israel in ex-
 4 istence on the date of the enactment of this Act.

5 **SEC. 4. EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF UNITED**
 6 **STATES-ISRAEL ANTI-TUNNEL COOPERATION.**

7 Section 1279 of the National Defense Authorization
 8 Act for Fiscal Year 2016 (Public Law 114–92; 22 U.S.C.
 9 8606 note) is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (b)(4), by striking
 11 “\$50,000,000” and inserting “\$80,000,000”; and

12 (2) in subsection (f), by striking “December 31,
 13 2026” and inserting “December 31, 2028”.

14 **SEC. 5. EXTENSION AND MODIFICATION OF UNITED**
 15 **STATES-ISRAEL COOPERATION TO COUNTER**
 16 **UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS.**

17 Section 1278 of the National Defense Authorization
 18 Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (22 U.S.C. 8606 note) is amend-
 19 ed—

20 (1) in subsection (b)(4), by striking
 21 “\$55,000,000” and inserting “\$75,000,000”; and

22 (2) in subsection (f), by striking “December 31,
 23 2026” and inserting “December 31, 2028”.

1 **SEC. 6. UNITED STATES-ISRAEL EMERGING TECHNOLOGY**
2 **CAPABILITIES COOPERATION.**

3 (a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the
4 United States to support and encourage further defense
5 collaboration with Israel in areas of emerging technologies
6 capable of enabling the warfare capabilities of both the
7 United States and Israel to meet emerging defense chal-
8 lenges, including in the areas of artificial intelligence, cy-
9 bersecurity, robotics, quantum, and automation.

10 (b) AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH EMERGING DEFENSE
11 TECHNOLOGY CAPABILITIES PROGRAM WITH ISRAEL.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense,
13 upon request by the Ministry of Defense of Israel
14 and in consultation with the Secretary of State and
15 the Director of National Intelligence, is authorized
16 to carry out, jointly with Israel, research, develop-
17 ment, test, and evaluation in areas of emerging tech-
18 nologies capable of enabling the warfare capabilities
19 of the United States and Israel to meet emerging de-
20 fense challenges, including in the areas of artificial
21 intelligence, cybersecurity, robotics, quantum, and
22 automation.

23 (2) PROTECTION OF SENSITIVE INFORMA-
24 TION.—Any activity carried out pursuant to the au-
25 thority provided by paragraph (1) shall be conducted
26 in a manner that appropriately protects sensitive in-

1 formation and the national security interests of the
2 United States and Israel.

3 (3) REPORT.—None of the activities described
4 in paragraph (1) may be carried out until the date
5 on which the Secretary of Defense submits to the
6 Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and
7 the House of Representatives a report that sets
8 forth the following:

9 (A) A memorandum of agreement between
10 the United States and Israel regarding sharing
11 of research and development costs for the capa-
12 bilities described in paragraph (1), and any
13 supporting documents.

14 (B) A certification that such memorandum
15 of agreement—

16 (i) requires sharing of costs of
17 projects, including in-kind support, be-
18 tween the United States and Israel;

19 (ii) establishes a framework to nego-
20 tiate the rights to any intellectual property
21 developed under the memorandum of
22 agreement; and

23 (iii) requires the United States Gov-
24 ernment to receive semiannual reports on
25 expenditure of funds, if any, by the Gov-

1 ernment of Israel, including a description
2 of what the funds have been used for,
3 when funds were expended, and an identi-
4 fication of entities that expended the
5 funds.

6 (c) LEAD AGENCY.—Not earlier than the date on
7 which the Secretary of Defense submits the report re-
8 quired by subsection (b)(3), the Secretary of Defense shall
9 designate the Irregular Warfare Technology Support Di-
10 rectorate as the lead agency of the Department of Defense
11 in carrying out this section.

12 (d) SEMIANNUAL REPORTS.—The Secretary of De-
13 fense shall submit to the appropriate committees of Con-
14 gress on a semiannual basis a report that contains a copy
15 of the most recent semiannual report provided by the Gov-
16 ernment of Israel to the Department of Defense pursuant
17 to subsection (b)(3)(B)(iii).

18 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
19 authorized to be appropriated \$50,000,000 for each of fis-
20 cal years 2026 through 2030 to carry out the program
21 under this section.

22 **SEC. 7. EXTENSION OF WAR RESERVES STOCKPILE AU-**
23 **THORITY.**

24 Section 12001(d) of the Department of Defense Ap-
25 propriations Act, 2005 (Public Law 108–287; 118 Stat.

1 1011) is amended by striking “after January 1, 2027”
2 and inserting “after January 1 2029”.

3 **SEC. 8. ESTABLISHMENT OF DEFENSE INNOVATION UNIT**
4 **OFFICE IN ISRAEL.**

5 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact-
6 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall establish
7 in Israel a Defense Innovation Unit office —

8 (1) to engage the Minister of Defense of Israel
9 and representatives of the private sector in collabo-
10 rative efforts to counter development by Iran of
11 dual-use defense technologies; and

12 (2) to leverage resources and innovation activi-
13 ties of the United States and Israel for the benefit
14 of the national security of the United States and
15 Israel.

16 **SEC. 9. NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRIAL BASE.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
18 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense
19 shall seek to engage the Minister of Defense of Israel in
20 a discussion of the process of the ascension of Israel into
21 the national technology and industrial base (as defined in
22 section 4801 of title 10, United States Code).

23 (b) PROTECTION OF SENSITIVE INFORMATION.—Any
24 activity carried out pursuant to the authority provided by
25 subsection (a) shall be conducted in a manner that appro-

1 priately protects sensitive information and the national se-
2 curity interests of the United States and Israel.

3 **SEC. 10. ASSESSMENT OF INTEGRATED AIR AND MISSILE**
4 **DEFENSE IN REGION COVERED BY UNITED**
5 **STATES CENTRAL COMMAND.**

6 (a) **ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.**—The Secretary of De-
7 fense shall conduct an assessment of the integrated air
8 and missile defense in the region cover by United States
9 Central Command.

10 (b) **ELEMENTS.**—The assessment conducted pursu-
11 ant to subsection (a) shall cover the following:

12 (1) The current strength of the integrated air
13 and missile defense in the region described in sub-
14 section (a).

15 (2) How best to strengthen the integrated air
16 and missile defense described in paragraph (1).

17 (3) What would be required to expand or deep-
18 en cooperation among the United States, Israel, and
19 other regional partners of the United States to
20 achieve full operational capability of the integrated
21 air and missile defense described in paragraph (1),
22 including identification of the amount of funding
23 and new legal authorities that may be required for
24 such expansion or deepening.

1 (c) CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out the assess-
2 ment required by subsection (a), the Secretary shall con-
3 sider the following:

4 (1) The strategy required by section 1658(b) of
5 James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization
6 Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117–263).

7 (2) Current cooperation among partners of the
8 United States in the region described by subsection
9 (a) on integrated air and missile defense.

10 (3) Lessons learned in countering the April 13,
11 2024, and October 1, 2024, airstrikes by Iran
12 against Israel.

13 (d) REPORT.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
15 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
16 retary of Defense shall submit to the Committees on
17 Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Rep-
18 resentatives a report on the assessment conducted
19 under this section.

20 (2) FORM.—The report required by paragraph
21 (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may
22 contain a classified annex.

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