

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5522

To change the name of the Department of Defense to the “Department of War”, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 19, 2025

Mr. MCGUIRE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To change the name of the Department of Defense to the “Department of War”, 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 “Peace Through
5 Strength Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. CHANGE OF NAME OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**
7 **TO “DEPARTMENT OF WAR”.**

8 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
9 ings:

1 (1) On August 7, 1789, 236 years ago, Presi-
2 dent George Washington signed into law a bill estab-
3 lishing the United States Department of War to
4 oversee the operation and maintenance of military
5 and naval affairs.

6 (2) It was under this name that the Depart-
7 ment of War, along with the later formed Depart-
8 ment of the Navy, won the War of 1812, World War
9 I, and World War II, inspiring awe and confidence
10 in our Nation’s military, and ensuring freedom and
11 prosperity for all Americans.

12 (3) The Founders chose this name to signal our
13 strength and resolve to the world.

14 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
15 gress that—

16 (1) the name “Department of War”, more than
17 the current “Department of Defense”, ensures peace
18 through strength, as it demonstrates our ability and
19 willingness to fight and win wars on behalf of our
20 Nation at a moment’s notice, not just to defend.

21 (2) This name sharpens the Department’s focus
22 on our own national interest and our adversaries’
23 focus on our willingness and availability to wage war
24 to secure what is ours.

1 (3) This Department should once again be
2 known as the Department of War and the Secretary
3 should be known as the Secretary of War.

4 (c) CHANGE OF NAME OF DEPARTMENT OF DE-
5 FENSE TO DEPARTMENT OF WAR.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The United States Code is
7 amended—

8 (A) by striking “Department of Defense”
9 each place it appears and inserting “Depart-
10 ment of War”; and

11 (B) by striking “Secretary of Defense”
12 each place it appears and inserting “Secretary
13 of War”.

14 (2) REFERENCES.—Any reference to the De-
15 partment of Defense in any law, rule, regulation,
16 certificate, directive, instruction, or other official
17 paper in force on the date of the enactment of this
18 Act shall be considered to refer and apply to the De-
19 partment of War.

20 (3) OTHER OFFICIALS.—This subsection shall
21 also apply, as appropriate, to subordinate officials
22 within the Department of Defense, who may use cor-
23 responding secondary titles such as Deputy Sec-
24 retary of War or Under Secretary of War in the con-
25 texts described in paragraph (2).

1 (4) STATUTORY REFERENCES.—Statutory ref-
2 erences to the Department of Defense, Secretary of
3 Defense, and subordinate officers and components
4 shall remain controlling until changed subsequently
5 by the law.

6 (d) IMPLEMENTATION.—This section shall be carried
7 out consistent with applicable law and subject to the avail-
8 ability of appropriations.

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