

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 8625

To amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to authorize assistance for certain development activities in high-income countries, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 30, 2026

Mr. MOYLAN (for himself and Ms. TOKUDA) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to authorize assistance for certain development activities in high-income countries, 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 Trade
5 and Development Agency Modernization Act of 2026” or
6 the “USTDA Modernization Act of 2026”.

7 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

8 It is the sense of Congress that the United States
9 Trade and Development Agency plays a critical role in ad-

1 vancing United States commercial, energy, digital, and in-
2 frastructure interests in priority emerging markets by sup-
3 porting early-stage project preparation and technical as-
4 sistance and should be authorized to allocate some of its
5 annual program funds for activities in high-income coun-
6 tries that directly affect United States economic and na-
7 tional security.

8 **SEC. 3. EXPANSION OF COUNTRY ELIGIBILITY.**

9 Section 661(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961
10 (22 U.S.C. 2421(b)) is amended—

11 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (3), (4), and
12 (5) as paragraphs (4), (5), and (6), respectively; and

13 (2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-
14 lowing:

15 “(3) ASSISTANCE IN HIGH-INCOME COUN-
16 TRIES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law,
17 the Director of the Trade and Development Agency
18 is authorized to provide not more than 15 percent of
19 the total amount of funds appropriated in a fiscal
20 year for assistance under this section for—

21 “(A) activities described in paragraph (2)
22 in high-income countries; or

23 “(B) projects in high-income countries that
24 serve United States strategic interests in the

1 energy, critical minerals, transport, or tele-
2 communications sectors.”.

3 **SEC. 4. PERSONNEL AUTHORITIES.**

4 Section 661(c) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 2421(c)) is
5 amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (2)(C), by striking “2” and
7 inserting “5” before “may be appointed”; and

8 (2) by adding at the end the following:

9 “(3) PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACTORS.—

10 “(A) The Trade and Development Agency
11 may contract with individuals for personal serv-
12 ices, and such individuals may not be consid-
13 ered Federal employees for the purpose of any
14 provision of law administered by the Director of
15 the Office of Personnel Management.

16 “(B) The Director shall submit to Con-
17 gress an annual report describing the number
18 of individuals contracted for personal services
19 by the Trade and Development Agency, the
20 roles of such contractors, and the costs associ-
21 ated with such contracts.”.

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