

# Calendar No. 305

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# S. 2132

To amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent and mitigate the potential for conflicts of interest following government service, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 18, 2025

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. WELCH, Mr. RISCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. COONS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

JANUARY 28, 2026

Reported by Mr. GRASSLEY, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

---

## A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent and mitigate the potential for conflicts of interest following government service, 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 “~~Conflict-free Leaving~~  
5       ~~Employment and Activity Restrictions Path Act~~” or the  
6       “~~CLEAR Path Act~~”.

1 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

2 It is the sense of Congress that—

3 (1) Congress and the executive branch have rec-  
 4 ognized the importance of preventing and mitigating  
 5 the potential for conflicts of interest following gov-  
 6 ernment service, including with respect to senior  
 7 United States officials working on behalf of foreign  
 8 governments; and

9 (2) Congress and the executive branch should  
 10 jointly evaluate the status and scope of post-employ-  
 11 ment restrictions.

12 **SEC. 3. POST-EMPLOYMENT RESTRICTIONS ON OFFICIALS**  
 13 **IN POSITIONS SUBJECT TO SENATE CON-**  
 14 **FIRMATION.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 207 of title 18, United  
 16 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
 17 lowing:

18 “(m) EXTENDED POST-EMPLOYMENT RESTRICTIONS  
 19 FOR OFFICIALS IN POSITIONS SUBJECT TO SENATE CON-  
 20 FIRMATION.—

21 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

22 “(A) COUNTRY OF CONCERN.—The term  
 23 ‘country of concern’ has the meaning given the  
 24 term in section 1(m) of the State Department  
 25 Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C.  
 26 2651a(m)).

1           “(B) FOREIGN GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY.—

2           The term ‘foreign governmental entity’ has the  
3           meaning given the term in section 1(m) of the  
4           State Department Basic Authorities Act of  
5           1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a(m)).

6           “(C) REPRESENT.—The term ‘represent’  
7           does not include representation by an attorney,  
8           who is duly licensed and authorized to provide  
9           legal advice in a United States jurisdiction, of  
10          a person or entity in a legal capacity or for the  
11          purposes of rendering legal advice.

12          “(D) SENATE-CONFIRMED POSITION.—The  
13          term ‘Senate-confirmed position’ means a posi-  
14          tion in a department or agency of the executive  
15          branch of the United States for which appoint-  
16          ment is required to be made by the President,  
17          by and with the advice and consent of the Sen-  
18          ate.

19          “(2) AGENCY HEADS, DEPUTY HEADS, AND  
20          OTHER POSITIONS SUBJECT TO SENATE CONFIRMA-  
21          TION.—With respect to a person serving as the head  
22          or deputy head of, or serving in any Senate-con-  
23          firmed position in, a department or agency of the ex-  
24          ecutive branch of the United States, the restrictions  
25          described in subsection (f)(1) shall apply to any such

1 person who knowingly represents, aids, or advises a  
2 foreign governmental entity of a country of concern  
3 before an officer or employee of the executive or leg-  
4 islative branch of the United States with the intent  
5 to influence a decision of the officer or employee in  
6 carrying out his or her official duties at any time  
7 after the termination of the person's service in that  
8 position.

9 “(3) NOTICE OF RESTRICTIONS.—Any person  
10 subject to the restrictions under this subsection shall  
11 be provided notice of these restrictions by the rel-  
12 evant department or agency—

13 “(A) upon appointment by the President;

14 and

15 “(B) upon termination of service with the  
16 relevant department or agency.

17 “(4) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The restrictions under  
18 this subsection shall apply only to persons who are  
19 appointed by the President to the positions ref-  
20 erenced in this section on or after the date of enact-  
21 ment of the Conflict-free Leaving Employment and  
22 Activity Restrictions Path Act.

23 “(5) SUNSET.—The restrictions under this sub-  
24 section shall expire on the date that is 5 years after

1 the date of enactment of the Conflict-free Leaving  
2 Employment and Activity Restrictions Path Act.”.

3 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1(m) of the  
4 State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22  
5 U.S.C. 2651a(m)) is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (6) and (7) as  
7 paragraphs (8) and (9), respectively; and

8 (2) by inserting after paragraph (5) the fol-  
9 lowing:

10 “(6) RELATION TO GOVERNMENT-WIDE RE-  
11 STRICTIONS.—This subsection shall not apply to a  
12 person by reason of the person’s service in a position  
13 referenced in this subsection if the person is subject  
14 to the restrictions under section 207(m) of title 18,  
15 United States Code, by reason of the same service.”.

16 **SEC. 4. MECHANISM TO AMEND DEFINITION OF “COUNTRY**  
17 **OF CONCERN”.**

18 Section 1(m) of the State Department Basic Authori-  
19 ties Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a(m)) is amended by in-  
20 serting after paragraph (6), as added by section 3(b), the  
21 end the following:

22 “(7) MODIFICATION TO DEFINITION OF ‘COUN-  
23 TRY OF CONCERN’.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of  
25 State may, in consultation with the Attorney

1 General, propose the addition or deletion of  
2 countries described in paragraph (1)(A):

3 “(B) SUBMISSION.—Any proposal de-  
4 scribed in subparagraph (A) shall—

5 “(i) be submitted to the Chairman  
6 and Ranking Member of the Committee on  
7 Foreign Relations of the Senate and the  
8 Chairman and Ranking Member of the  
9 Committee on the Judiciary of the House  
10 of Representatives; and

11 “(ii) become effective upon enactment  
12 of a joint resolution of approval as de-  
13 scribed in subparagraph (C):

14 “(C) JOINT RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL.—

15 “(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of  
16 subparagraph (B)(ii), the term ‘joint reso-  
17 lution of approval’ means only a joint reso-  
18 lution—

19 “(I) that does not have a pre-  
20 amble;

21 “(II) that includes in the matter  
22 after the resolving clause the fol-  
23 lowing: ‘That Congress approves the  
24 modification of the definition of  
25 “country of concern” under section

1 1(m) of the State Department Basic  
 2 Authorities Act of 1956, as submitted  
 3 by the Secretary of State on  
 4 \_\_\_\_\_; and section 1(m)(1)(A) of  
 5 the State Department Basic Authori-  
 6 ties Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C.  
 7 2651a(m)(1)(A)) is amended by  
 8 \_\_\_\_\_; the blank spaces  
 9 being appropriately filled in with the  
 10 appropriate date and the amendatory  
 11 language required to modify the list of  
 12 countries in paragraph (1)(A) of this  
 13 subsection by adding or deleting 1 or  
 14 more countries; and

15 “(III) the title of which is as fol-  
 16 lows: ‘Joint resolution approving  
 17 modifications to definition of “country  
 18 of concern” under section 1(m) of the  
 19 State Department Basic Authorities  
 20 Act of 1956.’”

21 “(ii) REFERRAL.—

22 “(I) SENATE.—A resolution de-  
 23 scribed in clause (i) that is introduced  
 24 in the Senate shall be referred to the

1 Committee on Foreign Relations of  
2 the Senate.

3 “(H) HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-  
4 TIVES.—A resolution described in  
5 clause (i) that is introduced in the  
6 House of Representatives shall be re-  
7 ferred to the Committee on the Judi-  
8 ciary of the House of Representa-  
9 tives.”.

10 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

11 *This Act may be cited as the “Conflict-free Leaving*  
12 *Employment and Activity Restrictions Path Act” or the*  
13 *“CLEAR Path Act”.*

14 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

15 *It is the sense of Congress that—*

16 *(1) Congress and the executive branch have rec-*  
17 *ognized the importance of preventing and mitigating*  
18 *the potential for conflicts of interest following Govern-*  
19 *ment service, including with respect to senior United*  
20 *States officials working on behalf of foreign govern-*  
21 *ments; and*

22 *(2) Congress and the executive branch should*  
23 *jointly evaluate the status and scope of post-employ-*  
24 *ment restrictions.*

1 **SEC. 3. POST-EMPLOYMENT RESTRICTIONS ON OFFICIALS**  
 2 **IN POSITIONS SUBJECT TO SENATE CON-**  
 3 **FIRMATION.**

4 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Section 207 of title 18, United  
 5 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

6 “(m) *EXTENDED POST-EMPLOYMENT RESTRICTIONS*  
 7 *FOR OFFICIALS IN POSITIONS SUBJECT TO SENATE CON-*  
 8 *FIRMATION.*—

9 “(1) *DEFINITIONS.*—*In this subsection:*

10 “(A) *COUNTRY OF CONCERN.*—*The term*  
 11 *‘country of concern’ has the meaning given the*  
 12 *term in section 1(m) of the State Department*  
 13 *Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C.*  
 14 *2651a(m)), except that it does not include the*  
 15 *country described in paragraph (1)(A)(vi) of*  
 16 *that section, as in effect on the date of enactment*  
 17 *of the Conflict-free Leaving Employment and Ac-*  
 18 *tivity Restrictions Path Act.*

19 “(B) *FOREIGN GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY.*—  
 20 *The term ‘foreign governmental entity’ has the*  
 21 *meaning given the term in section 1(m) of the*  
 22 *State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956*  
 23 *(22 U.S.C. 2651a(m)).*

24 “(C) *REPRESENT.*—*The term ‘represent’*  
 25 *does not include representation by an attorney,*  
 26 *who is duly licensed and authorized to provide*

1           *legal advice in a United States jurisdiction, of a*  
2           *person or entity in a legal capacity or for the*  
3           *purposes of rendering legal advice.*

4           “(D) *SENATE-CONFIRMED POSITION.*—*The*  
5           *term ‘Senate-confirmed position’ means a posi-*  
6           *tion in a department or agency of the executive*  
7           *branch of the United States for which appoint-*  
8           *ment is required to be made by the President, by*  
9           *and with the advice and consent of the Senate.*

10          “(2) *AGENCY HEADS, DEPUTY HEADS, AND*  
11          *OTHER POSITIONS SUBJECT TO SENATE CONFIRMA-*  
12          *TION.*—*Any person who serves in a position requiring*  
13          *appointment by the President as head or deputy head*  
14          *of, or serves in any other Senate-confirmed position*  
15          *in, a department or agency of the executive branch of*  
16          *the United States, and who, at any time after the ter-*  
17          *mination of the person’s service in that position,*  
18          *knowingly represents, aids, or advises a foreign gov-*  
19          *ernmental entity of a country of concern before an of-*  
20          *ficer or employee of the executive or legislative branch*  
21          *of the United States with the intent to influence a de-*  
22          *cision of the officer or employee in carrying out his*  
23          *or her official duties shall be punished as provided in*  
24          *section 216.*

1           “(3) *NOTICE OF RESTRICTIONS.*—*Any person*  
2           *subject to the restrictions under this subsection shall*  
3           *be provided notice of these restrictions by the relevant*  
4           *department or agency—*

5                     “(A) *upon appointment by the President;*  
6                     *and*

7                     “(B) *upon termination of service with the*  
8                     *relevant department or agency.*

9           “(4) *EFFECTIVE DATE.*—

10                    “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—*Except as provided in*  
11                    *subparagraph (B), the restrictions under this*  
12                    *subsection shall apply only to persons who are*  
13                    *appointed by the President to the positions ref-*  
14                    *erenced in this subsection on or after the date of*  
15                    *enactment of the Conflict-free Leaving Employ-*  
16                    *ment and Activity Restrictions Path Act.*

17                    “(B) *GRACE PERIOD FOR ADDED COUN-*  
18                    *TRIES OF CONCERN.*—*If the definition of the*  
19                    *term ‘country of concern’ under subsection (m) of*  
20                    *section 1 of the State Department Basic Authori-*  
21                    *ties Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a) is modified*  
22                    *in accordance with paragraph (7) of that sub-*  
23                    *section by adding a country to the list of coun-*  
24                    *tries described in paragraph (1)(A) of that sub-*  
25                    *section, in the case of any person who is ap-*

1           *pointed by the President to a position referenced*  
2           *in this subsection on or after the date of enact-*  
3           *ment of the Conflict-free Leaving Employment*  
4           *and Activity Restrictions Path Act and who*  
5           *knowingly represents, aids, or advises a foreign*  
6           *governmental entity of a country added to the*  
7           *list of countries described in paragraph (1)(A) of*  
8           *such subsection (m), the restrictions under this*  
9           *subsection shall apply to such person on and*  
10          *after the date that is 30 days after the date of*  
11          *enactment of a relevant joint resolution of ap-*  
12          *proval as described in paragraph (7)(C) of such*  
13          *subsection (m) adding that country to the list of*  
14          *countries described in paragraph (1)(A) of such*  
15          *subsection (m).*

16          “(5) *SUNSET.*—

17                 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—*On and after the date*  
18                 *that is 5 years after the date of enactment of the*  
19                 *Conflict-free Leaving Employment and Activity*  
20                 *Restrictions Path Act, the restrictions under*  
21                 *paragraph (2) shall not apply to any person ap-*  
22                 *pointed by the President, on or after such date*  
23                 *of enactment, to a position referenced in this*  
24                 *subsection, without regard to the date on which*

1           *the service of such person in such position termi-*  
2           *nates.*

3                   “(B) *NO EFFECT ON CONDUCT BEFORE SUN-*  
4           *SET.—Nothing in subparagraph (A) shall be con-*  
5           *strued to limit the applicability of paragraph (2)*  
6           *with respect to any conduct by a person ap-*  
7           *pointed by the President to a position referenced*  
8           *in this subsection that occurred before the date*  
9           *that is 5 years after the date of enactment of the*  
10           *Conflict-free Leaving Employment and Activity*  
11           *Restrictions Path Act.”.*

12           (b) *CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1(m) of the*  
13           *State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C.*  
14           *2651a(m)) is amended—*

15                   (1) *by redesignating paragraphs (6) and (7) as*  
16           *paragraphs (8) and (9), respectively; and*

17                   (2) *by inserting after paragraph (5) the fol-*  
18           *lowing:*

19                   “(6) *RELATION TO GOVERNMENT-WIDE RESTRIC-*  
20           *TIONS.—This subsection shall not apply to a person*  
21           *by reason of the person’s service in a position ref-*  
22           *erenced in this subsection if the person is subject to*  
23           *the restrictions under section 207(m) of title 18,*  
24           *United States Code, by reason of the same service.”.*

1 **SEC. 4. MECHANISM TO AMEND DEFINITION OF “COUNTRY**  
 2 **OF CONCERN”.**

3 *Section 1(m) of the State Department Basic Authori-*  
 4 *ties Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a(m)) is amended by insert-*  
 5 *ing after paragraph (6), as added by section 3(b), the fol-*  
 6 *lowing:*

7 “(7) *MODIFICATION TO DEFINITION OF ‘COUNTRY*  
 8 *OF CONCERN’.*—

9 “(A) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary of State*  
 10 *may, in consultation with the Attorney General,*  
 11 *propose the addition or deletion of countries de-*  
 12 *scribed in paragraph (1)(A).*

13 “(B) *SUBMISSION.*—*Any proposal described*  
 14 *in subparagraph (A) shall—*

15 “(i) *be submitted to the Chairman and*  
 16 *Ranking Member of the Committee on For-*  
 17 *ign Relations of the Senate and the Chair-*  
 18 *man and Ranking Member of the Com-*  
 19 *mittee on the Judiciary of the House of*  
 20 *Representatives; and*

21 “(ii) *become effective upon enactment*  
 22 *of a joint resolution of approval as de-*  
 23 *scribed in subparagraph (C).*

24 “(C) *JOINT RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL.*—

25 “(i) *IN GENERAL.*—*For purposes of*  
 26 *subparagraph (B)(ii), the term ‘joint resolu-*

1            *tion of approval' means only a joint resolu-*  
2            *tion—*

3                    *“(I) that does not have a pre-*  
4                    *amble;*

5                    *“(II) that includes in the matter*  
6                    *after the resolving clause the following:*  
7                    *‘That Congress approves the modifica-*  
8                    *tion of the definition of “country of*  
9                    *concern” under section 1(m) of the*  
10                   *State Department Basic Authorities*  
11                   *Act of 1956, as submitted by the Sec-*  
12                   *retary of State on \_\_\_\_\_; and sec-*  
13                   *tion 1(m)(1)(A) of the State Depart-*  
14                   *ment Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22*  
15                   *U.S.C. 2651a(m)(1)(A)) is amended by*  
16                   *\_\_\_\_\_.’, the blank spaces being*  
17                   *appropriately filled in with the appro-*  
18                   *priate date and the amendatory lan-*  
19                   *guage required to modify the list of*  
20                   *countries in paragraph (1)(A) of this*  
21                   *subsection by adding or deleting 1 or*  
22                   *more countries; and*

23                   *“(III) the title of which is as fol-*  
24                   *lows: ‘Joint resolution approving*  
25                   *modifications to definition of “country*

1                   *of concern” under section 1(m) of the*  
2                   *State Department Basic Authorities*  
3                   *Act of 1956.’*

4                   “(i) *REFERRAL.—*

5                         “(I) *SENATE.—A resolution de-*  
6                         *scribed in clause (i) that is introduced*  
7                         *in the Senate shall be referred to the*  
8                         *Committee on Foreign Relations of the*  
9                         *Senate.*

10                        “(II) *HOUSE OF REPRESENTA-*  
11                        *TIVES.—A resolution described in*  
12                        *clause (i) that is introduced in the*  
13                        *House of Representatives shall be re-*  
14                        *ferred to the Committee on the Judici-*  
15                        *ary of the House of Representatives.”.*



Calendar No. 305

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

**S. 2132**

---

---

**A BILL**

To amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent and mitigate the potential for conflicts of interest following government service, and for other purposes.

---

---

JANUARY 28, 2026

Reported with an amendment