

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3433

To amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to establish a United States Ambassador at Large for Arctic Affairs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 20, 2021

Mr. PHILLIPS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to establish a United States Ambassador at Large for Arctic Affairs, 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 “Arctic Diplomacy Act
5 of 2021”.

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

7 It is the sense of Congress that—

8 (1) the rapidly changing Arctic environment—

1 (A) creates new national and regional secu-
2 rity challenges due to increased military activity
3 in the Arctic;

4 (B) heightens the risk of the Arctic emerg-
5 ing as a major theater of conflict in ongoing
6 strategic competition;

7 (C) threatens maritime safety due to inad-
8 equately regional resource capacity to patrol the
9 increase in vessel traffic this remote region is
10 experiencing from the growing expanses of open
11 Arctic water from diminished annual levels of
12 sea ice;

13 (D) impacts public safety due to increased
14 human activity in the Arctic region where
15 search and rescue capacity remains very lim-
16 ited; and

17 (E) threatens the health of the Arctic's
18 fragile and historically pristine environment and
19 the unique and highly sensitive species found in
20 the Arctic's marine and terrestrial ecosystems;
21 and

22 (2) the United States should reduce the con-
23 sequences outlined in paragraph (1) by—

1 (A) carefully evaluating a wide variety and
2 dynamic set of security and safety risks unfold-
3 ing in the Arctic;

4 (B) developing policies and making prep-
5 arations for mitigating and responding to
6 threats and risks in the Arctic, including by
7 continuing to work with allies and partners in
8 the Arctic region to deter potential aggressive
9 activities and build Arctic competencies;

10 (C) adequately funding the National Earth
11 System Prediction Capability to substantively
12 improve weather, ocean, and ice predictions on
13 time scales necessary for ensuring regional se-
14 curity and trans-Arctic shipping;

15 (D) investing in resources, including a sig-
16 nificantly expanded icebreaker fleet, to ensure
17 that the United States has adequate capacity to
18 prevent and respond to security threats in the
19 Arctic region; and

20 (E) pursuing diplomatic engagements with
21 all Arctic countries to reach an agreement for—

22 (i) maintaining peace and stability in
23 the Arctic region;

1 (ii) fostering cooperation on steward-
2 ship and safety initiatives in the Arctic re-
3 gion;

4 (iii) promoting environmentally sus-
5 tainable natural resource management and
6 economic development;

7 (iv) ensuring safe and efficient man-
8 agement of commercial maritime traffic in
9 the Arctic;

10 (v) reducing black carbon and meth-
11 ane emissions in the Arctic region, includ-
12 ing by working with observers of the Arctic
13 Council, including India and China, to
14 adopt mitigation plans consistent with the
15 findings and recommendations of the Arc-
16 tic Council's Framework for Action on
17 Black Carbon and Methane; and

18 (vi) countering China's Polar Silk
19 Road initiative.

20 **SEC. 3. UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR AT LARGE FOR ARC-**
21 **TIC AFFAIRS.**

22 Title I of the State Department Basic Authorities Act
23 of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a et seq.) is amended by adding
24 at the end the following new section:

1 **“SEC. 64. UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR AT LARGE FOR**
2 **ARCTIC AFFAIRS.**

3 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within
4 the Department of State an Ambassador at Large for Arc-
5 tic Affairs (referred to in this section as the ‘Ambas-
6 sador’), appointed in accordance with subsection (b).

7 “(b) APPOINTMENT.—The Ambassador shall be ap-
8 pointed by the President, by and with the advice and con-
9 sent of the Senate.

10 “(c) DUTIES.—The Ambassador shall—

11 “(1) facilitate the development and coordination
12 of United States foreign policy in the Arctic region
13 relating to—

14 “(A) meeting national security needs;

15 “(B) protecting the Arctic environment
16 and conserving its biological resources;

17 “(C) promoting environmentally sustain-
18 able natural resource management and eco-
19 nomic development;

20 “(D) strengthening institutions for co-
21 operation among Arctic countries;

22 “(E) involving Arctic indigenous people in
23 decisions that affect them;

24 “(F) enhancing scientific monitoring and
25 research on local, regional, and global environ-
26 mental issues; and

1 “(G) reducing black carbon and methane
2 emissions in the Arctic region;

3 “(2) coordinate the diplomatic objectives, and,
4 as appropriate, represent the United States within
5 multilateral fora that address international coopera-
6 tion and foreign policy matters in the Arctic region;

7 “(3) help inform, in coordination with the Bu-
8 reau of Economic and Business Affairs,
9 transnational commerce and commercial maritime
10 transit in the Arctic region;

11 “(4) coordinate the integration of scientific data
12 on the current and projected effects of climate
13 change in the Arctic region and ensure that such
14 data is applied to the development of security strate-
15 gies for the Arctic region;

16 “(5) make available the methods and ap-
17 proaches on the integration of climate science to
18 other regional security planning programs in the De-
19 partment of State to better ensure that broader deci-
20 sion-making processes may more adequately account
21 for the effects of climate change;

22 “(6) serve as a key point of contact for other
23 Federal agencies, including the Department of De-
24 fense, the Department of the Interior, the Depart-

1 ment of Homeland Security, and the intelligence
2 community, on Arctic region security issues;

3 “(7) serve as the Chair of the Arctic Council
4 when the United States holds the Chairmanship of
5 the Arctic Council; and

6 “(8) perform such other duties and exercise
7 such powers as the President and Secretary of State
8 shall prescribe.

9 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 “(1) ARCTIC COUNTRIES.—The term ‘Arctic
11 countries’ means the eight countries with territory
12 or exclusive economic zones that extend north of the
13 66.56083 parallel latitude north of the equator.

14 “(2) ARCTIC REGION.—The term ‘Arctic region’
15 means the geographic region north of the 66.56083
16 parallel latitude north of the equator.

17 “(3) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The term
18 ‘intelligence community’ has the meaning given such
19 term in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of
20 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)).”.

21 **SEC. 4. ARCTIC REGION SECURITY POLICY.**

22 The Secretary of State, acting through the Ambas-
23 sador at Large for Arctic Affairs of the Department of
24 State under section 64 of the State Department Basic Au-
25 thorities Act of 1956 (established pursuant to section 3),

1 shall establish an Arctic Region Security Policy. Such pol-
2 icy shall assess, develop, budget for, and implement plans,
3 policies, and actions relating to—

4 (1) bolstering the diplomatic presence of the
5 United States in Arctic countries, including through
6 enhancements to diplomatic missions and facilities,
7 participation in regional and bilateral dialogues re-
8 lated to Arctic security, and coordination of United
9 States initiatives and assistance programs across
10 agencies to protect the national security of the
11 United States and its allies and partners;

12 (2) enhancing the resilience capacities of Arctic
13 countries to the effects of environmental change and
14 increased civilian and military activity by Arctic
15 countries and other countries that may result from
16 increased accessibility of the Arctic region;

17 (3) assessing specific added risks to the Arctic
18 region and Arctic countries that—

19 (A) are vulnerable to the changing Arctic
20 environment; and

21 (B) are strategically significant to the
22 United States;

23 (4) coordinating the integration of environ-
24 mental change and national security risk and vulner-

1 ability assessments into the decision-making process
2 on foreign assistance awards with Greenland;

3 (5) advancing principles of good governance by
4 encouraging and cooperating with Arctic states on
5 collaborative approaches to—

6 (A) responsibly manage natural resources
7 in the Arctic region;

8 (B) share the burden of ensuring maritime
9 safety in the Arctic region;

10 (C) prevent the escalation of security ten-
11 sions by mitigating against the militarization of
12 the Arctic region;

13 (D) develop mutually agreed upon multilat-
14 eral policies among Arctic countries on the
15 management of maritime transit routes through
16 the Arctic region and work cooperatively on the
17 transit policies for access to and transit in the
18 Arctic region by non-Arctic countries; and

19 (E) facilitate the development of Arctic Re-
20 gion Security Action Plans to ensure stability
21 and public safety in disaster situations in a hu-
22 mane and responsible fashion;

23 (6) evaluating the vulnerability, security, surviv-
24 ability, and resiliency of United States interests and
25 non-defense assets in the Arctic region; and

1 (7) reducing black carbon and methane emis-
2 sions in the Arctic region.

3 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this Act:

5 (1) ARCTIC COUNTRIES.—The term “Arctic
6 countries” means the eight countries with territory
7 or exclusive economic zones that extend north of the
8 66.56083 parallel latitude north of the equator.

9 (2) ARCTIC REGION.—The term “Arctic region”
10 means the geographic region north of the 66.56083
11 parallel latitude north of the equator.

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