

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4135

To require an independent assessment with respect to the Arctic region and establishment of the Arctic Security Initiative, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 24, 2021

Mr. GALLAGHER (for himself and Mrs. LURIA) 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

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## A BILL

To require an independent assessment with respect to the Arctic region and establishment of the Arctic Security Initiative, 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 Security Initia-  
5 tive Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE ARCTIC RE-**  
2 **GION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ARC-**  
3 **TIC SECURITY INITIATIVE.**

4 It is the sense of Congress that—

5 (1) the security, stability, and prosperity of the  
6 Arctic region are vital to the national interests of  
7 the United States;

8 (2) the United States should posture a military  
9 capability in the region that is able to project power,  
10 deter acts of aggression, and respond, if necessary,  
11 to threats within and arising from the Arctic region;

12 (3) the defense of the United States and its al-  
13 lies from the People’s Republic of China, the Rus-  
14 sian Federation, the Democratic People’s Republic  
15 of Korea, and any other aggressor remains a top pri-  
16 ority;

17 (4) persistent efforts by the Department of De-  
18 fense to realign United States forces in the Arctic  
19 region, and commit additional assets to and increase  
20 investments in the Arctic region, are necessary to  
21 maintain a robust United States commitment to the  
22 Arctic region;

23 (5) the United States commitment to freedom  
24 of navigation and ensuring free access to sea lanes  
25 and overflights for the Navy and the Air Force re-  
26 mains a core security interest; and

1 (6) the United States should continue to engage  
2 in the Arctic region by—

3 (A) strengthening alliances and partner-  
4 ships;

5 (B) supporting regional institutions and  
6 bodies such as the Arctic Council;

7 (C) building cooperative security arrange-  
8 ments;

9 (D) addressing shared challenges; and

10 (E) reinforcing the role of international  
11 law, including respect for human rights.

12 **SEC. 3. INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than February 15,  
14 2022, the Commander of the United States Northern  
15 Command, in consultation and coordination with United  
16 States European Command and United States Indo-Pa-  
17 cific Command, the military departments, and defense  
18 agencies, shall conduct an independent assessment with  
19 respect to the activities and resources required, for fiscal  
20 years 2023 through 2027, to achieve the following objec-  
21 tives:

22 (1) The implementation of the National De-  
23 fense Strategy and military service-specific strategies  
24 with respect to the Arctic region.

1           (2) The maintenance or restoration of the com-  
2           parative military advantage of the United States in  
3           response to great power competitors in the Arctic re-  
4           gion.

5           (3) The reduction of the risk of executing oper-  
6           ation and contingency plans of the Department of  
7           Defense.

8           (4) To maximize execution of Department oper-  
9           ation and contingency plans, in the event deterrence  
10          fails.

11          (b) ELEMENTS.—The assessment required by sub-  
12       section (a) shall include the following:

13               (1) An analysis of, and recommended changes  
14               to achieve, the required force structure and posture  
15               of assigned and allocated forces within the Arctic re-  
16               gion for fiscal year 2027 necessary to achieve the  
17               objectives described in subsection (a), which shall be  
18               informed by—

19                       (A) a review of United States military re-  
20                       quirements based on operation and contingency  
21                       plans, capabilities of potential adversaries, as-  
22                       sessed gaps or shortfalls of the Armed Forces  
23                       within the Arctic region, and scenarios that  
24                       consider—

1 (i) potential contingencies that com-  
2 mence in the Arctic region and contin-  
3 gencies that commence in other regions but  
4 affect the Arctic region;

5 (ii) use of near-, mid-, and far-time  
6 horizons to encompass the range of cir-  
7 cumstances required to test new concepts  
8 and doctrine; and

9 (iii) supporting analyses that focus on  
10 the number of regionally postured military  
11 units and the quality of capability of such  
12 units;

13 (B) a review of current United States mili-  
14 tary force posture and deployment plans within  
15 the Arctic region, especially of Arctic-based  
16 forces that provide support to, or receive sup-  
17 port from, the United States Northern Com-  
18 mand, the United States Indo-Pacific Com-  
19 mand, or the United States European Com-  
20 mand;

21 (C) an analysis of potential future realign-  
22 ments of United States forces in the region, in-  
23 cluding options for strengthening United States  
24 presence, access, readiness, training, exercises,  
25 logistics, and pre-positioning; and

1 (D) any other matter the Commander de-  
2 termines to be appropriate.

3 (2) A discussion of any factor that may influ-  
4 ence the United States posture, supported by annual  
5 wargames and other forms of research and analysis.

6 (3) An assessment of capabilities requirements  
7 to achieve such objectives.

8 (4) An assessment of logistics requirements, in-  
9 cluding personnel, equipment, supplies, storage, and  
10 maintenance needs to achieve such objectives.

11 (5) An assessment and identification of re-  
12 quired infrastructure and military construction in-  
13 vestments to achieve such objectives.

14 (6) An assessment of security cooperation ac-  
15 tivities or resources required to achieve such objec-  
16 tives.

17 (7) An assessment and recommended changes  
18 to the leadership, organization, and management of  
19 Arctic policy, strategy, and operations among the  
20 combatant commands and military services.

21 (c) REPORT.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than February 15,  
23 2022, the Commander of the United States North-  
24 ern Command, in consultation and coordination with  
25 United States European Command and United

1 States Indo-Pacific Command, shall submit to the  
2 congressional defense committees a report on the as-  
3 sessment required by subsection (a).

4 (2) FORM.—The report required by paragraph  
5 (1) may be submitted in classified form, but shall in-  
6 clude an unclassified summary.

7 (3) AVAILABILITY.—Not later than February  
8 15, 2022, the Commander of United States North-  
9 ern Command shall make the report available to the  
10 Secretary of Defense, the Under Secretary of De-  
11 fense for Policy, the Under Secretary of Defense  
12 (Comptroller), the Director of Cost Assessment and  
13 Program Evaluation, the Chairman of the Joint  
14 Chiefs of Staff, the Secretaries of the military de-  
15 partments, and the chiefs of staff of each military  
16 service.

17 **SEC. 4. ARCTIC SECURITY INITIATIVE.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall  
19 carry out a program of activities to enhance security in  
20 the Arctic region, which shall be known as the “Arctic Se-  
21 curity Initiative” (referred to in this section as the “Initia-  
22 tive”).

23 (b) OBJECTIVES.—The Initiative’s development and  
24 subsequent implementation shall be—

1           (1) consistent with the objectives described sub-  
2       section (a) of section 3; and

3           (2) informed by the assessment required by  
4       that subsection.

5       (c) ACTIVITIES.—The Initiative shall carry out the  
6       following prioritized activities to improve the design and  
7       posture of the joint force in the Arctic region:

8           (1) Modernize and strengthen the presence of  
9       the Armed Forces, including those with advanced ca-  
10      pabilities.

11          (2) Improve logistics and maintenance capabili-  
12      ties and the pre-positioning of equipment, munitions,  
13      fuel, and materiel.

14          (3) Carry out a program of exercises, war-  
15      games, education, training, experimentation, and in-  
16      novation for the joint force.

17          (4) Improve infrastructure to enhance the re-  
18      sponsiveness and resiliency of the Armed Forces.

19          (5) Build the defense and security capabilities,  
20      capacity, and cooperation of allies and partners.

21          (6) Strengthen Arctic consultative mechanisms  
22      and collaborative planning.

23       (d) FIVE-YEAR PLAN FOR THE INITIATIVE.—

24           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than April 15,  
25      2022, and each February 15 thereafter, the Sec-



1       retary of Defense, in consultation with the Com-  
2       manders of United States Northern Command,  
3       United States European Command, and United  
4       States Indo-Pacific Command, shall submit to the  
5       congressional defense committees a future years plan  
6       for the activities and resources of the Initiative that  
7       includes the following:

8               (A) A description of the activities and re-  
9               sources for the first fiscal year beginning after  
10              the date on which the report required by section  
11              3(c) is submitted and the plan for not fewer  
12              than the four following fiscal years, organized  
13              by the activities described in subsection (c).

14             (B) A summary of progress made towards  
15             achieving the objectives described in section  
16             3(a).

17             (C) A summary of the activity, resource,  
18             capability, infrastructure, and logistics require-  
19             ments necessary to achieve measurable progress  
20             in reducing risk to the ability of the joint force  
21             to achieve objectives in the Arctic region, in-  
22             cluding through investments in—

23                   (i) active and passive defenses  
24                   against—

- 1 (I) manned aircraft, surface ves-  
2 sels, and submarines;
- 3 (II) unmanned naval systems;
- 4 (III) unmanned aerial systems;
- 5 and
- 6 (IV) theater cruise, ballistic, and  
7 hypersonic missiles;
- 8 (ii) advanced long-range precision  
9 strike systems;
- 10 (iii) command, control, communica-  
11 tions, computers, intelligence, surveillance,  
12 and reconnaissance systems;
- 13 (iv) training and test range capacity,  
14 capability, and coordination;
- 15 (v) dispersed resilient and adaptive  
16 basing to support distributed operations,  
17 including expeditionary airfields and ports,  
18 space launch facilities, and command  
19 posts;
- 20 (vi) advanced critical munitions;
- 21 (vii) pre-positioned forward stocks of  
22 fuel, munitions, equipment, and materiel;
- 23 (viii) distributed logistics and mainte-  
24 nance capabilities;

1 (ix) strategic mobility assets, includ-  
2 ing icebreakers;

3 (x) improved interoperability, logistics,  
4 transnational supply lines and infrastruc-  
5 ture, and information sharing with allies  
6 and partners, including scientific missions;

7 (xi) information operations capabili-  
8 ties;

9 (xii) bilateral and multilateral military  
10 exercises and training with allies and part-  
11 ners; and

12 (xiii) use of security cooperation au-  
13 thorities to further build partner capacity.

14 (D) A detailed timeline for achieving the  
15 requirements identified under subparagraph  
16 (C).

17 (E) A detailed explanation of any signifi-  
18 cant modification to such requirements, as com-  
19 pared to the Commander of United States  
20 Northern Command's initial independent as-  
21 sessment for the first fiscal year and to plans  
22 previously submitted for each subsequent fiscal  
23 year.

24 (F) Any other matter Secretary of Defense  
25 considers necessary.

1           (2) FORM.—The plan required under paragraph  
2           (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may  
3           include a classified annex.

4           (3) INCLUSION IN BUDGET MATERIALS.—The  
5           Secretary shall include such plan in the budget ma-  
6           terials submitted by the Secretary in support of the  
7           budget of the President for fiscal year 2023 (sub-  
8           mitted pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United  
9           States Code).

10 **SEC. 5. GENERAL TRANSFER AUTHORITY.**

11           Funds may be made available to carry out this sec-  
12           tion through the transfer authority provided to the De-  
13           partment of Defense.

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