

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9120

To require a comprehensive military assessment of the needs of Baltic countries to deter and resist aggression by the Russian Federation, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

Mr. PFLUGER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, 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

A BILL

To require a comprehensive military assessment of the needs of Baltic countries to deter and resist aggression by the Russian Federation, 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 “Baltic Reassurance
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The Russian Federation seeks to diminish
2 the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)
3 and recreate its sphere of influence in Europe using
4 coercion, intimidation, and outright aggression.

5 (2) Deterring the Russian Federation from
6 such aggression is vital for transatlantic security.

7 (3) The illegal occupation of Crimea by the
8 Russian Federation and its continued engagement of
9 destabilizing and subversive activities against inde-
10 pendent and free states is of increasing concern.

11 (4) The Russian Federation also continues to
12 disregard treaties, international laws and rights to
13 freedom of navigation, territorial integrity, and sov-
14 ereign international borders.

15 (5) The Russian Federation's continued occupa-
16 tion of Georgian and Ukrainian territories and the
17 sustained military buildup in the Russian Federa-
18 tion's Western Military District and Kaliningrad has
19 threatened continental peace and stability.

20 (6) The Baltic countries of Estonia, Latvia, and
21 Lithuania are particularly vulnerable to an increas-
22 ingly aggressive and subversive Russian Federation.

23 (7) In a declaration to celebrate 100 years of
24 independence of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania
25 issued on April 3, 2018, the Trump Administration

1 reaffirmed United States commitments to these Bal-
2 tic countries to “improve military readiness and ca-
3 pabilities through sustained security assistance” and
4 “explore new ideas and opportunities, including air
5 defense, bilaterally and in NATO, to enhance deter-
6 rence across the region”.

7 (8) These highly valued NATO allies of the
8 United States have repeatedly demonstrated their
9 commitment to advancing mutual interests as well
10 as those of the NATO alliance.

11 (9) The Baltic countries also continue to par-
12 ticipate in United States-led exercises to further pro-
13 mote coordination, cooperation, and interoperability
14 among allies and partner countries, and continue to
15 demonstrate their reliability and commitment to pro-
16 vide for their own defense.

17 (10) Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia each hosts
18 a respected NATO Center of Excellence that pro-
19 vides expertise to educate and promote NATO allies
20 and partners in areas of vital interest to the alliance.

21 (11) United States support and commitment to
22 allies across Europe has been a lynchpin for peace
23 and security on the continent for over 70 years.

24 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

25 It is the sense of Congress as follows:

1 (1) The United States is committed to the secu-
2 rity of the Baltic countries and should strengthen
3 cooperation and support capacity-building initiatives
4 aimed at improving the defense and security of such
5 countries.

6 (2) The United States should lead a multilat-
7 eral effort to develop a strategy to deepen joint ca-
8 pabilities with Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, NATO al-
9 lies, and other regional partners, to deter against ag-
10 gression from the Russian Federation in the Baltic
11 region, specifically in areas that would strengthen
12 interoperability, joint capabilities, and military readi-
13 ness necessary for Baltic countries to strengthen
14 their national resilience.

15 (3) The United States should explore the feasi-
16 bility of providing long range, mobile air defense sys-
17 tems in the Baltic region, including through
18 leveraging cost-sharing mechanisms and multilateral
19 deployment with NATO allies to reduce financial
20 burdens on host countries.

21 **SEC. 4. DEFENSE ASSESSMENT.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
23 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense
24 shall, in consultation with appropriate counterparts of
25 Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, North Atlantic Treaty Organi-

1 zation (NATO) allies, and other regional partners, con-
2 duct a comprehensive, multilateral assessment of the mili-
3 tary requirements of such countries to deter and resist ag-
4 gression by the Russian Federation that—

5 (1) provides an assessment of past and current
6 initiatives to improve the efficiency, effectiveness,
7 readiness, and interoperability of Lithuania, Latvia,
8 and Estonia’s national defense capabilities; and

9 (2) assesses the manner in which to meet those
10 objectives, including future resource requirements
11 and recommendations, by undertaking activities in
12 the following areas:

13 (A) Activities to increase the rotational
14 and forward presence, improve the capabilities,
15 and enhance the posture and response readiness
16 of the United States or forces of NATO in the
17 Baltic region.

18 (B) Activities to improve air defense sys-
19 tems, including modern air-surveillance capabili-
20 ties.

21 (C) Activities to improve counter-un-
22 manned aerial system capabilities.

23 (D) Activities to improve command and
24 control capabilities through increasing commu-
25 nications, technology, and intelligence capacity

1 and coordination, including secure and hard-
2 ened communications.

3 (E) Activities to improve intelligence, sur-
4 veillance, and reconnaissance capabilities.

5 (F) Activities to enhance maritime domain
6 awareness.

7 (G) Activities to improve military and de-
8 fense infrastructure, logistics, and access, par-
9 ticularly transport of military supplies and
10 equipment.

11 (H) Investments to ammunition stocks and
12 storage.

13 (I) Activities and training to enhance cyber
14 security and electronic warfare capabilities.

15 (J) Bilateral and multilateral training and
16 exercises.

17 (K) New and existing cost-sharing mecha-
18 nisms with United States and NATO allies to
19 reduce financial burden.

20 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
21 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense
22 shall submit to the congressional defense committees a re-
23 port that includes each of the following:

24 (1) A report on the findings of the assessment
25 conducted pursuant to subsection (a).

1 (2) A list of any recommendations resulting
2 from such assessment.

3 (3) An assessment of the resource requirements
4 to achieve the objectives described in subsection
5 (a)(1) with respect to the national defense capability
6 of Baltic countries, including potential investments
7 by host countries.

8 (4) A plan for the United States to use appro-
9 priate security cooperation authorities or other au-
10 thorities to—

11 (A) facilitate relevant recommendations in-
12 cluded in the list described in paragraph (2);

13 (B) expand joint training between the
14 Armed Forces and the military of Lithuania,
15 Latvia, or Estonia, including with the participa-
16 tion of other NATO allies; and

17 (C) support United States foreign military
18 sales and other equipment transfers to Baltic
19 countries especially for the activities described
20 in subparagraphs (A) through (I) of subsection
21 (a)(2).

22 **SEC. 5. CONGRESSIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEES DEFINED.**

23 For purposes of this Act, the term “congressional de-
24 fense committees” means—

1 (1) the Committee on Armed Services, the
2 Committee on Appropriations, and the Committee on
3 Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;
4 and

5 (2) the Committee on Armed Services, the
6 Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, and the
7 Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

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