

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2922

To establish the Baltic Security Initiative for the purpose of strengthening the defensive capabilities of the Baltic countries, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 27, 2023

Mr. BACON (for himself and Mr. GALLEGO) 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

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## A BILL

To establish the Baltic Security Initiative for the purpose of strengthening the defensive capabilities of the Baltic 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 “Baltic Security Initia-  
5       tive Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. BALTIC SECURITY INITIATIVE.**

7       (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

1           (1) The Secretary of Defense shall establish  
2           and carry out an initiative, to be known as the “Bal-  
3           tic Security Initiative”, for the purpose of deepening  
4           security cooperation with the Baltic countries.

5           (2) RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING AUTHORI-  
6           TIES.—The initiative required by this subsection  
7           shall be carried out pursuant to the authorities of  
8           title 10, United States Code.

9           (b) OBJECTIVES.—The objectives of the initiative re-  
10          quired by subsection (a) shall be—

11           (1) to achieve United States national security  
12          objectives by—

13                   (A) deterring Russian aggression; and

14                   (B) implementing NATO’s new Strategic  
15          Concept which seeks to strengthen the alliance’s  
16          deterrence and defense posture by denying po-  
17          tential adversaries any possible opportunities  
18          for aggression;

19           (2) to enhance regional planning and coopera-  
20          tion among the Baltic countries, particularly with re-  
21          spect to long-term regional capability projects, in-  
22          cluding—

23                   (A) long range precision fire systems and  
24          capabilities;

25                   (B) integrated air and missile defense;

1 (C) maritime domain awareness;

2 (D) land forces development, including  
3 stockpiling large caliber ammunition;

4 (E) command, control, communications,  
5 computers, intelligence, surveillance, and recon-  
6 naissance;

7 (F) special operations forces development;

8 (G) coordination with and security en-  
9 hancements for Poland, which is a neighboring  
10 NATO ally; and

11 (H) other military capabilities as deter-  
12 mined by the Secretary of Defense; and

13 (3) to improve the Baltic countries' cyber de-  
14 fenses and resilience to hybrid threats.

15 (c) STRATEGY.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year  
17 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
18 retary of Defense shall submit to Congress a report  
19 setting forth a strategy of the Department of De-  
20 fense to achieve the objectives described in sub-  
21 section (b) of the initiative required by subsection  
22 (a).

23 (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—The strategy required  
24 by this subsection shall include a consideration of—

1 (A) current security assistance programs  
2 for the Baltic countries;

3 (B) the ongoing security threats to  
4 NATO's eastern flank posed by Russian aggres-  
5 sion, including as a result of the Russian Fed-  
6 eration's 2022 invasion of Ukraine with support  
7 from Belarus; and

8 (C) the ongoing security threats to the  
9 Baltic countries posed by the presence, coercive  
10 economic policies, and other malign activities of  
11 the People's Republic of China.

12 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be  
14 appropriated to the Secretary of Defense  
15 \$350,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2024,  
16 2025, and 2026 to carry out the initiative required  
17 by subsection (a).

18 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of  
19 Congress that the Secretary of Defense should seek  
20 to require matching funds from those Baltic coun-  
21 tries that participate in the initiative required by  
22 subsection (a) in amounts commensurate with  
23 amounts provided by the Department of Defense  
24 under such initiative.

25 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

1 (1) the term “Baltic countries” means—

2 (A) Estonia;

3 (B) Latvia; and

4 (C) Lithuania; and

5 (2) the term “NATO” means the North Atlan-  
6 tic Treaty Organization.

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