

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3186

To authorize the Secretary of the Army to procure two Iron Dome short-range rocket defense system batteries, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 10, 2019

Ms. SHERRILL (for herself and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Army to procure two Iron Dome short-range rocket defense system batteries, 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 “U.S.-Israel Indirect
5 Fire Protection Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) On July 27, 2012, the United States-Israel
9 Enhanced Security Cooperation Act of 2012 (Public
10 Law 112–150; 22 U.S.C. 8601 et seq.) declared it

1 to be the policy of the United States “to help the
2 Government of Israel preserve its qualitative military
3 edge amid rapid and uncertain regional political
4 transformation” and “provide Israel defense articles
5 and services, to include air refueling tankers, missile
6 defense capabilities, and specialized munitions”.

7 (2) On December 19, 2014, the President
8 signed into law the United States-Israel Strategic
9 Partnership Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–296)
10 which stated the sense of Congress that Israel is a
11 major strategic partner of the United States and de-
12 clared it to be the policy of the United States “to
13 continue to provide Israel with robust security as-
14 sistance, including for the procurement of the Iron
15 Dome Missile Defense System”.

16 (3) In 2014, both governments signed a co-pro-
17 duction agreement to produce Iron Dome’s compo-
18 nents in the United States.

19 (4) The United States has provided more than
20 \$1,400,000,000 to Israel for Iron Dome batteries,
21 coproduction costs, and general maintenance.

22 (5) More than 70 percent of the Iron Dome in-
23 terceptor is manufactured in the United States.

24 (6) The Iron Dome system is now a fielded,
25 battle-tested capability in Israel with more than

1 1,700 confirmed air defense intercepts and provides
2 a rapid approach to delivering air defense capabili-
3 ties for the United States.

4 (7) As outlined in the National Defense Strat-
5 egy, the Army has critical capability gaps for cruise
6 missile defense, as well as counter-unmanned aerial
7 systems and counter-rocket, artillery, and mortars.

8 (8) In October 2018, the Army reported to
9 Congress that, “The Iron Dome System has capa-
10 bility against cruise missiles, unmanned aircraft sys-
11 tems, and rocket, artillery, and mortar fire,” and
12 “provides the best value to the Army as an interim
13 capability.”.

14 (9) In February 2019, the Army Futures Com-
15 mand issued a statement noting an “intent to pro-
16 cure a limited number of Iron Dome weapon systems
17 to fill its short-term need for an interim Indirect
18 Fire Protection Capability.”.

19 (10) The Army reported to Congress that “Iron
20 Dome meets the Army’s modernization vision of
21 rapid deployment of a mature and affordable weapon
22 system.”.

23 (11) Any delay in procuring the Iron Dome bat-
24 teries for the Army jeopardizes the ability of the
25 Army to field an initial capability in 2020 and cre-

1 ates continued risk to warfighters by leaving this
2 identified critical capability gap unfulfilled.

3 (12) At an April 2, 2019, hearing by the Com-
4 mittee on Armed Services of the House of Rep-
5 resentatives, the Chief of Staff of the Army General
6 Mark Milley stated, “The Iron Dome is a very capa-
7 ble system. It has basically a 100 percent track
8 record in combat. We clearly need it to protect our
9 formations, and we are buying the two batteries.”.

10 (13) Section 112 of the John S. McCain Na-
11 tional Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year
12 2019 (Public Law 115–232) provides that—

13 (A) if the Secretary of Defense certifies the
14 need for the Army to deploy an interim missile
15 defense capability, the Secretary of the Army
16 shall deploy at least two batteries to provide
17 such capability not later than September 30,
18 2020, and an additional two batteries not later
19 than September 30, 2023; and

20 (B) to meet such deadlines for deployment,
21 the Secretary of the Army may—

22 (i) deploy such systems that “require
23 the least amount of development”; and

24 (ii) use any authority of the Secretary
25 relating to acquisition, technology transfer,

1 and personnel management that the Sec-
2 retary considers appropriate, including
3 rapid acquisition and rapid prototyping au-
4 thorities, to resource and procure an in-
5 terim missile defense capability.

6 **SEC. 3. AUTHORITY TO PROCURE IRON DOME BATTERIES.**

7 (a) **AUTHORITY.**—Pursuant to paragraph (3) of sec-
8 tion 112(b) of the John S. McCain National Defense Au-
9 thorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115–
10 232), the Secretary of the Army may procure two Iron
11 Dome batteries to carry out paragraph (1)(A) of such sec-
12 tion to deploy an interim missile defense capability by not
13 later than September 30, 2020.

14 (b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is
15 authorized to be appropriated \$9,337,000 to the Secretary
16 of the Army to carry out subsection (a).

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