

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4847

To provide for limitations on general license authorities under the Syria
Sanctions Regulations.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 25, 2023

Mr. BAIRD (for himself, Mr. MCCAUL, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Financial Services, Oversight and Accountability, and Ways and Means, 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 provide for limitations on general license authorities
under the Syria Sanctions Regulations.

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 “Safeguarding Syria
5 Sanctions Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) On February 6, 2023, a magnitude 7.8
2 earthquake struck northwest Syria and central-
3 southern Türkiye.

4 (2) On February 9, 2023, the Department of
5 the Treasury issued Syria General License 23, tem-
6 porarily authorizing direct transactions with the
7 Assad regime related to earthquake relief efforts for
8 180 days.

9 (3) Prior to the earthquake, pre-existing gen-
10 eral licenses enabled assistance to the Syrian people
11 by authorizing robust exemptions for humanitarian
12 assistance carried out by the United Nations and
13 nongovernmental organizations. Such pre-existing li-
14 censes are set to remain in effect past the expiration
15 of General License 23.

16 (4) Since the Department of the Treasury
17 issued Syria General License 23, numerous reports
18 have documented extensive efforts by the Assad re-
19 gime, and its Russian and Iranian backers, to lever-
20 age the earthquake response for their gain.

21 (5) The Iranian regime and its proxies have re-
22 portedly smuggled lethal weapons into Syria to tar-
23 get United States forces under the guise of earth-
24 quake relief.

1 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

2 It is the policy of the United States to actively oppose
3 recognition or normalization of relations by other govern-
4 ments with any Government of Syria, including by fully
5 implementing the mandatory primary and secondary sanc-
6 tions under the Caesar Syria Civilian Protection Act of
7 2019 (22 U.S.C. 8791 note) and Executive Order 13894
8 (84 Fed. Reg. 55851; relating to blocking property and
9 suspending entry of certain persons contributing to the
10 situation in Syria) to deter any form of investment, loan,
11 transaction, or reconstruction in areas under the control
12 of the Assad regime, or its Russian and Iranian backers,
13 or that may otherwise benefit the Assad regime.

14 **SEC. 4. LIMITATIONS ON LICENSE AUTHORITIES UNDER**
15 **THE SYRIA SANCTIONS REGULATIONS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—No general license may be issued,
17 renewed, or otherwise extended by the Department of
18 Treasury on or after the date of the enactment of this
19 Act under the Syria Sanctions Regulations to respond to
20 the earthquake that struck northwest Syria on February
21 6, 2023.

22 (b) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary
23 of the Treasury, with the concurrence of the Secretary of
24 State and the Secretary of Commerce, shall notify the ap-
25 propriate congressional committees of any change to the
26 Syria Sanctions Regulations, including changes to any ex-

1 isting regulation, ruling, instruction, license, or authoriza-
2 tion, not later than 15 days prior to the date on which
3 such change is to take effect.

4 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act—

6 (1) the term “appropriate congressional com-
7 mittees” means—

8 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the
9 Committee on Financial Services, the Com-
10 mittee on Ways and Means, and the Committee
11 on the Judiciary of the House of Representa-
12 tives; and

13 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations,
14 the Committee on Banking, Housing, and
15 Urban Affairs, and the Committee on the Judi-
16 ciary of the Senate; and

17 (2) the term “Syria Sanctions Regulations”
18 means the regulations specified in part 542 of title
19 31, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor or
20 related regulations.

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