

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8566

To require reports and certain actions with respect to the Republic of Georgia.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 23, 2024

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. COHEN, Mr. HUDSON, and Mr. VEASEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Intelligence (Permanent Select), Ways and Means, and the Judiciary, 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 reports and certain actions with respect to the
Republic of Georgia.

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 “Mobilizing and En-
5 hancing Georgia’s Options for Building Accountability,
6 Resilience, and Independence Act” or “MEGOBARI Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Georgia’s primary contribution to regional
2 peace and stability, United States interests, and its
3 own global reputation has been its democratic spirit
4 and trajectory. Georgia has been an important part-
5 ner to the United States and other democracies,
6 maintaining strong engagement with western nations
7 and working to uphold democratic rights and values
8 to bolster regional peace and stability.

9 (2) The Georgian people’s consistent and over-
10 whelming foreign policy choice favors strong and
11 warm relations with the United States and other
12 western countries and integration with the North
13 Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European
14 Union.

15 (3) The official position of successive Georgian
16 Governments, since the restoration of its independ-
17 ence in 1991, has been one of pursuing membership
18 in Euro-Atlantic institutions.

19 (4) Georgian democratic development since re-
20 gaining its independence has been uneven but has in
21 recent years seen steady and evident decline, which
22 appears to be a deliberate policy decision made
23 under its current government.

24 (5) The Russian Federation’s longstanding and
25 consistently predatory posture towards Georgian sov-

1 sovereignty began immediately upon the restoration of
2 its independence and culminated in the 2008 Rus-
3 sian invasion of Georgia and its subsequent formal
4 occupation of approximately 20 percent of Georgian
5 territory, and has also been underscored through the
6 ethnic cleansing of hundreds of thousands of Geor-
7 gian citizens.

8 (6) The current Georgian Government has in-
9 creasingly and regrettably embraced a policy of ac-
10 commodation with the Russian Federation as an as-
11 pect of its increasingly illiberal turn, and has openly
12 attacked United States and other western democracy
13 promotion organizations as well as local and inter-
14 national civil society while embracing increased ties
15 with Russia in particular, as well as China and other
16 authoritarian governments, in defiance of its own
17 preexisting foreign and security policies as reflected
18 in its constitution and longstanding public senti-
19 ments.

20 (7) The United States should continue to sup-
21 port the Georgian people and their democratic and
22 Euro-Atlantic aspirations.

23 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

24 It is the sense of Congress that—

1 (1) the progress made by the Georgian people
2 and civil society in forging an innovative and produc-
3 tive society, imbued with democratic spirit, should be
4 acknowledged;

5 (2) the consolidation of democracy in Georgia is
6 critical for regional stability and United States na-
7 tional interests;

8 (3) Georgia, as evidenced by numerous inde-
9 pendent assessments and measures, has seen signifi-
10 cant democratic backsliding in recent years;

11 (4) the current Georgian Government is in-
12 creasingly hostile towards democracy promotion or-
13 ganizations, independent civil society, and its chief
14 Euro-Atlantic partners while increasingly embracing
15 enhanced ties with the Russian Federation, the Peo-
16 ple's Republic of China, and other anti-Western au-
17 thoritarian regimes; and

18 (5) the United States interest in protecting and
19 securing democracy is borne by a close friendship
20 and support for the Georgian people's continued
21 democratic and Euro-Atlantic choice.

22 **SEC. 4. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

23 It is the policy of the United States to support and
24 defend democracy, human rights, and the rule of law in

1 Georgia, which is the foundation of Georgia’s privileged
2 relationship with the Euro-Atlantic west.

3 **SEC. 5. REPORTS.**

4 (a) REPORT ON IMPROPER INFLUENCE AND SANC-
5 TIONS EVASION IN GEORGIA.—Not later than 90 days
6 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
7 of State, in coordination with the Secretary of the Treas-
8 ury, shall submit to Congress a report and brief the rel-
9 evant committees on—

10 (1) nodes of improper political influence,
11 kleptocracy, and elite corruption in Georgia, particu-
12 larly insofar that they serve or may support Russian
13 malign interests, knowingly or unknowingly; and

14 (2) the manner and extent to which Georgia,
15 with the complicity of key individuals within Geor-
16 gia, has been used as a means to bypass or evade,
17 in letter or spirit, United States or international
18 sanctions imposed on the Russian Federation in re-
19 sponse to its full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

20 (b) REPORT ON RUSSIAN INTELLIGENCE ASSETS IN
21 GEORGIA.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the
22 enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intel-
23 ligence, in coordination with the Secretary of State, the
24 Secretary of Defense, and the Director of Central Intel-
25 ligence, shall submit to Congress a report examining the

1 penetration of Russian intelligence elements and their as-
2 sets in Georgia, to include an annex examining Chinese
3 influence and the potential intersection of Russian-Chinese
4 cooperation in Georgia.

5 (c) REPORT ON IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH
6 RESPECT TO GEORGIAN INDIVIDUALS.—

7 (1) IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—Not later than
8 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act,
9 the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Sec-
10 retary of Defense, the Secretary of Commerce, the
11 Attorney General, the Secretary of Homeland Secu-
12 rity, and the Secretary of the Treasury, shall—

13 (A) identify key individuals who—

14 (i) are in the Government of Georgia,
15 working as its agents or on its behalf, or
16 otherwise in a position to strongly influ-
17 ence the actions of such Government; and

18 (ii) have material responsibility for
19 undermining or injuring democracy,
20 human rights, or security in Georgia; and

21 (B) to the extent practicable, impose with
22 respect to each such individual such sanctions
23 as may be justifiable and authorized by law,
24 such as sanctions pursuant to the Global
25 Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act

1 (22 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.), anti-kleptocracy and
2 human rights sanctions authorized by section
3 7031(c) of division K of the Consolidated Ap-
4 propriations Act, 2023, and other similar au-
5 thorities relating to sanctions with respect to
6 human rights violations, with special urgent
7 consideration of visa bans under section
8 7031(c) of division K of the Consolidated Ap-
9 propriations Act, 2023 to key individuals and
10 their families who—

11 (i) are materially or directly respon-
12 sible in Parliament for the advocacy, pas-
13 sage, and potential enactment of the recent
14 Russian-style foreign agent legislation; and

15 (ii) substantially responsible within
16 political or governmental leadership, busi-
17 ness circles, or law enforcement and secu-
18 rity services for advancing the same Rus-
19 sian-style foreign agent legislation or un-
20 dermining or suppressing lawful popular or
21 civil society opposition.

22 (2) REPORT ON SANCTIONS DETERMINA-
23 TIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the
24 enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall
25 submit to Congress a report that includes each de-

1 termination pursuant to this subsection with respect
2 to the imposition of sanctions and accompanying
3 justifications.

4 (d) FORM.—Each report required by this section
5 shall be submitted in a form that includes an unclassified
6 executive summary. Each such summary shall be made
7 publicly available.

8 **SEC. 6. DEMOCRACY MONITORING TASK FORCE IN GEOR-**
9 **GIA.**

10 The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Ad-
11 ministrator of the United States Agency for International
12 Development, the heads of other Federal agencies and de-
13 partments, and international partners, shall establish a
14 democracy monitoring task force with, as practicable, a
15 significant presence within Georgia, to publicly assess,
16 monitor, and promote the pre-election democratic environ-
17 ment in Georgia.

18 **SEC. 7. ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE WITH RESPECT TO GEOR-**
19 **GIA.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Upon submission to Congress of
21 the certification described in subsection (b)—

22 (1) the United States Trade Representative, in
23 consultation with the Secretary of State and the
24 Secretary of Commerce, shall seek to enter into ne-
25 gotiations with the Government of Georgia to estab-

1 lish a robust preferential trade regime between the
2 United States and Georgia;

3 (2) the Secretary of State, in consultation with
4 the Secretary of Homeland Security and other heads
5 of other relevant Federal departments and agencies,
6 shall develop a policy package to further enhance
7 people-to-people contacts, academic exchanges, and
8 improved visa liberalizations between the United
9 States and Georgia.

10 (3) the President, acting through the United
11 States International Development Finance Corpora-
12 tion, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the
13 United States Agency for International Develop-
14 ment, the Department of Commerce, the Depart-
15 ment of State, other relevant Federal departments
16 and agencies, and international partners, shall de-
17 velop an economic development and modernization
18 package for Georgia; and

19 (4) the President, in consultation with the Sec-
20 retary of Defense, shall prepare a package for Geor-
21 gia that includes the provision of security and de-
22 fense equipment ideally suited for territorial defense
23 against Russian aggression and concomitant train-
24 ing, maintenance, and operations support elements.

1 (b) CERTIFICATION DESCRIBED.—The certification
2 described in this subsection is a certification submitted to
3 Congress by the President or the Secretary of State that
4 Georgia has shown significant and sustained progress to-
5 wards reinvigorating its democracy, evidenced at minimum
6 by substantially fair and free elections and a balanced pre-
7 election environment.

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