

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4249

To require the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study on access to operational energy by the Armed Forces in the Indo-Pacific region.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 2, 2024

Mr. RUBIO introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study on access to operational energy by the Armed Forces in the Indo-Pacific region.

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 “Fuel Utilization for
5 Enhanced Logistics Act” or the “FUEL Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. STUDY, STRATEGY, AND REPORT ON OPERATIONAL**
7 **RESILIENCE OF ENERGY SUPPLY FOR ARMED**
8 **FORCES IN INDO-PACIFIC REGION.**

9 (a) STUDY.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense
2 shall conduct a study on the energy supply, logistics
3 networks, and infrastructure that support access to
4 operational energy (as defined in section 2924 of
5 title 10, United States Code) by the Armed Forces
6 in the Indo-Pacific region.

7 (2) ELEMENTS.—The study required by para-
8 graph (1) shall assess—

9 (A) current contingency plans and alter-
10 native logistics routes that ensure continued ac-
11 cess by the Armed Forces to uninterrupted en-
12 ergy supply chains under contested conditions;

13 (B) the current operational energy infra-
14 structure in the Indo-Pacific region owned by
15 commercial companies or host countries, and
16 the ability of such infrastructure to endure at-
17 tacks, including kinetic and cyber attacks;

18 (C) potential political and economic influ-
19 ences on the availability of operational energy
20 in contested environments, taking into consider-
21 ation the growing market share of national oil
22 companies; and

23 (D) current and projected trends in global
24 refining capacity and investments in petroleum
25 infrastructure, and the implications of such

1 trends for United States national security, in-
2 cluding the potential implications in a future
3 conflict.

4 (b) STRATEGY.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop
6 a strategy, based on the findings of the study re-
7 quired by subsection (a), to secure access to oper-
8 ational energy for the Armed Forces in the Indo-Pa-
9 cific region.

10 (2) ELEMENTS.—The strategy developed under
11 paragraph (1) shall identify—

12 (A) rapid-deployment energy solutions that
13 enable the Armed Forces to conduct sustained
14 operations in the absence of traditional fuel
15 supplies;

16 (B) any needed or anticipated investment
17 in infrastructure and fuel capabilities owned by
18 the United States in the Indo-Pacific region, to
19 reduce dependency on foreign infrastructure
20 and petroleum;

21 (C) any enhancement needed to ensure the
22 security of operational energy supply chains for
23 such sustained operations through advanced
24 monitoring, including cybersecurity measures
25 and physical protections;

1 (D) any collaboration between United
2 States energy companies and partner countries
3 the Secretary has pursued to reduce reliance on
4 energy sources owned by adversarial countries;
5 and

6 (E) allied and partner countries with which
7 the Commander of the United States Indo-Pa-
8 cific Command should collaborate to address
9 vulnerabilities in the energy supply and logistics
10 networks of the Armed Forces in the Indo-Pa-
11 cific region.

12 (c) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date
13 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit
14 to the congressional defense committees a report that in-
15 cludes—

16 (1) the findings of the study required by sub-
17 section (a)(1);

18 (2) the strategy developed under subsection
19 (b)(1); and

20 (3) any recommendation for legislative or ad-
21 ministrative actions to support such strategy.

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