

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To improve defense cooperation between the United States and the Hashemite
Kingdom of Jordan.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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

A BILL

To improve defense cooperation between the United States
and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

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 “United States-Jordan
5 Defense Cooperation Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) As of January 22, 2015, the United States
9 Government has provided \$3,046,343,000 in assist-
10 ance to respond to the Syria humanitarian crisis, of

1 which nearly \$467,000,000 has been provided to the
2 Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

3 (2) As of January 2015, according to the
4 United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,
5 there were 621,937 registered Syrian refugees in
6 Jordan and 83.8 percent of whom lived outside ref-
7 ugee camps.

8 (3) In 2000, the United States and Jordan
9 signed a free-trade agreement that went into force
10 in 2001.

11 (4) In 1996, the United States granted Jordan
12 major non-NATO ally status.

13 (5) Jordan is suffering from the Syrian refugee
14 crisis and the threat of the Islamic State of Iraq and
15 the Levant (ISIL).

16 (6) The Government of Jordan was elected as
17 a non-permanent member of the United Nations Se-
18 curity Council for a 2-year term ending in December
19 2015.

20 (7) Enhanced support for defense cooperation
21 with Jordan is important to the national security of
22 the United States, including through creation of a
23 status in law for Jordan similar to the countries in
24 the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, Japan,
25 Australia, the Republic of Korea, Israel, and New

1 Zealand, with respect to consideration by Congress
2 of foreign military sales to Jordan.

3 (8) The Colorado National Guard's relationship
4 with the Jordanian military provides a significant
5 benefit to both the United States and Jordan.

6 (9) Jordanian pilot Moaz al-Kasasbeh was bru-
7 tally murdered by ISIL.

8 (10) On February 3, 2015, Secretary of State
9 John Kerry and Jordanian Foreign Minister Nasser
10 Judeh signed a new Memorandum of Understanding
11 that reflects the intention to increase United States
12 assistance to the Government of Jordan from
13 \$660,000,000 to \$1,000,000,000 for each of the
14 years 2015 through 2017.

15 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

16 It should be the policy of the United States—

17 (1) to support the Hashemite Kingdom of Jor-
18 dan in its response to the Syrian refugee crisis;

19 (2) to provide necessary assistance to alleviate
20 the domestic burden to provide basic needs for the
21 assimilated Syrian refugees;

22 (3) to cooperate with Jordan to combat the ter-
23 rorist threat from the Islamic State of Iraq and the
24 Levant (ISIL) or other terrorist organizations; and

1 (4) to help secure the border between Jordan
2 and its neighbors Syria and Iraq.

3 **SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

4 It is the sense of Congress that expeditious consider-
5 ation of certifications of letters of offer to sell defense arti-
6 cles, defense services, design and construction services,
7 and major defense equipment to the Hashemite Kingdom
8 of Jordan under section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control
9 Act (22 U.S.C. 2776(b)) is fully consistent with United
10 States security and foreign policy interests and the objec-
11 tives of world peace and security.

12 **SEC. 5. ENHANCED DEFENSE COOPERATION.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—During the 3-year period begin-
14 ning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the
15 Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan shall be treated as if it
16 were a country listed in the provisions of law described
17 in subsection (b) for purposes of applying and admin-
18 istering such provisions of law.

19 (b) ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT.—The provisions
20 of law described in this subsection are—

21 (1) subsections (b)(2), (d)(2)(B), (d)(3)(A)(i),
22 and (d)(5) of section 3 of the Arms Export Control
23 Act (22 U.S.C. 2753);

24 (2) subsections (e)(2)(A), (h)(1)(A), and (h)(2)
25 of section 21 of such Act (22 U.S.C. 2761);

1 (3) subsections (b)(1), (b)(2), (b)(6), (c), and
2 (d)(2)(A) of section 36 of such Act (22 U.S.C.
3 2776);

4 (4) section 62(c)(1) of such Act (22 U.S.C.
5 2796a(c)(1)); and

6 (5) section 63(a)(2) (22 U.S.C. 2796b(a)(2)).

7 **SEC. 6. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.**

8 Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Sec-
9 retary of State is authorized to enter into a memorandum
10 of understanding with the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
11 to increase economic support funds, military cooperation,
12 including joint military exercises, personnel exchanges,
13 support for international peacekeeping missions, and en-
14 hanced strategic dialogue.