

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to support religious freedom in foreign countries.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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

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**A BILL**

To amend the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 to support religious freedom in foreign countries.

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. PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO VIO-**  
4 **LATIONS OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.**

5 Section 401(b)(2) of the International Religious  
6 Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6441(b)(2)) is amended  
7 to read as follows:

8 “(2) DEADLINE FOR ACTIONS.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in  
10 subparagraph (B), not later than 90 days after

1 the date on which each report is submitted  
2 under section 102(b), the President shall take  
3 1 or more of the actions described in section  
4 405(a) or a commensurate action with respect  
5 to each foreign country in which the govern-  
6 ment has engaged in or tolerated violations of  
7 religious freedom at any time since the previous  
8 such report was submitted.

9 “(B) **ADDITIONAL PREREQUISITE.**—The  
10 President may not take any of the actions de-  
11 scribed in paragraphs (9) through (15) of sec-  
12 tion 405(a) or a commensurate action until the  
13 President certifies that the requirements under  
14 sections 403 and 404 have been satisfied.”.

15 **SEC. 2. PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO PARTICU-**  
16 **LARLY SEVERE VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS**  
17 **FREEDOM.**

18 (a) **DESIGNATIONS OF COUNTRIES OF PARTICULAR**  
19 **CONCERN FOR RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.**—Section 402(b) of  
20 the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22  
21 U.S.C. 6442(b)) is amended—

22 (1) in paragraph (1)—

23 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

24 (i) by striking “Not later than Sep-  
25 tember 1 of each year, the President shall

1 review” and inserting the following: “Not  
2 later than 90 days after the date on which  
3 each report is submitted under section  
4 102(b), the President shall—

5 “(i) review”; and

6 (ii) by striking “or since the date”  
7 and all that follows through “longer. The  
8 President shall designate” and inserting  
9 the following: “longer; and

10 “(ii) designate”; and

11 (B) in subparagraph (C), by striking  
12 “prior to September 1 of the respective year”  
13 and inserting “before the date on which the re-  
14 port is submitted under section 102(b)”;

15 (2) in paragraph (3)—

16 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (A)  
17 and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and  
18 moving each clause 2 ems to the right;

19 (B) in the matter preceding clause (i), as  
20 redesignated—

21 (i) by striking “Whenever” and insert-  
22 ing the following:

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Whenever”; and

1                   (ii) by striking “as soon as prac-  
2                   ticable” and inserting “not later than 120  
3                   days”;

4                   (C) in subparagraph (A), as redesign-  
5                   nated—

6                   (i) in clause (i), as redesignated, by  
7                   striking “and” at the end;

8                   (ii) in clause (ii), as redesignated, by  
9                   striking the period at the end and inserting  
10                  “; and”; and

11                  (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
12                  lowing:

13                  “(iii) the actions taken, the purposes  
14                  of the actions taken, and evaluation of the  
15                  effectiveness of the actions taken.”; and

16                  (D) by adding at the end the following:

17                  “(B) COUNTRIES RECOMMENDED BY THE  
18                  COMMISSION.—If the President does not des-  
19                  ignate a country as a country of particular con-  
20                  cern for religious freedom under paragraph  
21                  (1)(A) after the Commission has recommended  
22                  such designation, the President shall submit a  
23                  report to Congress that contains the reasons for  
24                  such nondesignation.

1           “(C) REMOVAL OF DESIGNATION.—A  
2 country that is designated as a country of par-  
3 ticular concern for religious freedom under  
4 paragraph (1)(A) shall retain such designation  
5 until the President determines and reports to  
6 the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Sen-  
7 ate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of  
8 the House of Representatives that the country  
9 should no longer be so designated.”.

10       (b) PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS WITH RESPECT TO  
11 COUNTRIES OF PARTICULAR CONCERN FOR RELIGIOUS  
12 FREEDOM.—Section 402(c)(5) of the International Reli-  
13 gious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6442(c)(5)) is  
14 amended—

15           (1) in the second sentence—

16               (A) by striking “must” and inserting  
17 “shall”;

18               (B) by striking “he” and inserting “the  
19 President”; and

20               (C) by inserting “and include a description  
21 of the impact of the designation of such sanc-  
22 tion or sanctions” before the period at the end;  
23 and

24           (2) by adding at the end the following: “The  
25 President shall submit a report to the Committee on

1 Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee  
2 on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives  
3 that explains why the decision was made that 1 or  
4 more of such sanctions also satisfy the requirements  
5 of this subsection.”.

6 **SEC. 3. CONSULTATIONS.**

7 Section 403(a) of the International Religious Free-  
8 dom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6443(a)) is amended by strik-  
9 ing “As soon as practicable” and inserting “Not later than  
10 90 days”.

11 **SEC. 4. PRESIDENTIAL WAIVER.**

12 Section 407(a) of the International Religious Free-  
13 dom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6447(a)) is amended by in-  
14 serting “, for a 180-day period,” after “may waive”.

15 **SEC. 5. TERMINATION OF PRESIDENTIAL ACTIONS.**

16 Section 409 of the International Religious Freedom  
17 Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6449) is amended by striking “on  
18 the earlier of” and all that follows through “Upon” and  
19 inserting “upon”.