

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To require a United States security strategy for the Western Hemisphere,
and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To require a United States security strategy for the Western
Hemisphere, and for other purposes.

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 “Western Hemisphere
5 Security Strategy Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that—

8 (1) the security, stability, prosperity, and state
9 of democratic governance in countries of the West-

1 ern Hemisphere are vital to the national interests of
2 the United States;

3 (2) the harmful and malign influence in Latin
4 America and the Caribbean of the Government of
5 the People's Republic of China and the Government
6 of the Russian Federation poses risks to—

7 (A) the people and countries of Latin
8 America and the Caribbean; and

9 (B) the national interests of the United
10 States;

11 (3) the United States should expand its engage-
12 ment in the Western Hemisphere by—

13 (A) strengthening its alliances and part-
14 nerships with countries in the Western Hemi-
15 sphere;

16 (B) fostering security cooperation among
17 countries in the Western Hemisphere to facili-
18 tate trade, investment, training, and humani-
19 tarian assistance in the near and long term;
20 and

21 (C) working with security and law enforce-
22 ment agencies in the Western Hemisphere—

23 (i) to address the shared challenges
24 of—

1 (I) narcotics trafficking, human
2 trafficking, and other forms of illicit
3 trafficking; and

4 (II) transnational criminal orga-
5 nizations; and

6 (ii) to support the rule of law, democ-
7 racy, and human rights in the region;

8 (4) the United States should maintain credible
9 security capabilities dedicated to Latin America and
10 the Caribbean—

11 (A) to build partner country capacity;

12 (B) to support the delivery of humani-
13 tarian assistance and disaster relief;

14 (C) to deter acts of aggression; and

15 (D) to respond, if necessary, to regional
16 threats and threats to the national security of
17 the United States; and

18 (5) the Department of State and the Depart-
19 ment of Defense should continue to commit addi-
20 tional assets and increase investments in the West-
21 ern Hemisphere so as to maintain robust United
22 States security partnerships with countries in the
23 Western Hemisphere.

1 **SEC. 3. SECURITY STRATEGY FOR THE WESTERN HEMI-**
2 **SPHERE.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
4 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State
5 and the Secretary of Defense shall jointly submit to the
6 appropriate committees of Congress a multi-year strategy,
7 to be known as the “Western Hemisphere Security Strat-
8 egy”, for purposes of enhancing diplomatic engagement
9 and security assistance and cooperation, promoting re-
10 gional security and stability, and advancing United States
11 strategic interests in the Western Hemisphere.

12 (b) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required by subsection
13 (a) shall include the following:

14 (1) A proposal for increasing United States bi-
15 lateral and multilateral security assistance and co-
16 operation in Latin America and the Caribbean.

17 (2) Activities to build the defense and security
18 capacity of partner countries in Latin America and
19 the Caribbean.

20 (3) Activities to counter—

21 (A) malign influence by state actors; and

22 (B) transnational criminal organizations
23 with connections to—

24 (i) illicit trafficking, including the il-
25 licit trafficking of narcotics and weapons;

26 or

1 (ii) terrorism.

2 (4) Efforts to disrupt, degrade, and counter
3 transnational illicit trafficking, with an emphasis on
4 illicit narcotics and precursor chemicals that produce
5 illicit narcotics.

6 (5) Activities to increase transparency in, and
7 support for, strong and accountable defense, secu-
8 rity, and law enforcement institutions through insti-
9 tutional capacity-building efforts, including efforts to
10 ensure respect for internationally recognized human
11 rights and direction and oversight by civilian au-
12 thorities.

13 (6) Efforts to expand bilateral and multi-
14 national military training exercises with partner
15 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

16 (7) Humanitarian assistance and disaster relief
17 initiatives to support partner countries by promoting
18 the development and growth of responsive institu-
19 tions through activities such as—

20 (A) the provision of appropriate equip-
21 ment, training, logistical support;

22 (B) transportation of humanitarian sup-
23 plies or personnel of foreign security forces;

24 (C) making available, preparing, and
25 transferring on-hand nonlethal supplies, and

1 providing training on the use of such supplies,
2 for humanitarian or health purposes to respond
3 to unforeseen emergencies;

4 (D) the provision of Department of State
5 humanitarian demining assistance; and

6 (E) conducting medical support operations
7 and medical humanitarian missions, such as
8 hospital ship deployments and base-operating
9 services, to the extent required by the oper-
10 ation.

11 (8) Continued support for the women, peace,
12 and security initiatives of the Department of State
13 to support the capacity of partner countries in the
14 Western Hemisphere—

15 (A) to ensure—

16 (i) the safety and security of women
17 and girls; and

18 (ii) that the rights of women and girls
19 are protected; and

20 (B) to promote the meaningful participa-
21 tion of women in the defense and security sec-
22 tors.

23 (9) Professional military education initiatives,
24 such as the Department of State's International
25 Military and Education Training program.

1 (10) A detailed assessment of the resources re-
2 quired to carry out such strategy and a plan to be
3 executed not later than fiscal year 2023.

4 (c) IMPLEMENTATION.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
6 the date on which the Western Hemisphere Security
7 Strategy is submitted under subsection (a), the Sec-
8 retary of State and the Secretary of Defense shall
9 commence implementation of the strategy.

10 (2) BRIEFING.—Not later than 180 days after
11 the date on which the implementation of the West-
12 ern Hemisphere Security Strategy commences, and
13 every 180 days thereafter, the Secretary of State
14 and the Secretary of Defense shall jointly provide a
15 briefing to the appropriate committees of Congress
16 on the implementation of the strategy.

17 (3) TERMINATION.—The authority under this
18 section shall terminate on the date that is three
19 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

20 (d) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DE-
21 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate commit-
22 tees of Congress” means—

23 (1) the Committee on Foreign Relations and
24 the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate; and

1 (2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the
2 Committee on Armed Services of the House of Rep-
3 resentatives.