

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To designate certain unelected entities claiming to be governments as foreign terrorist organizations, to impose certain measures with respect to countries that support such entities, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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

A BILL

To designate certain unelected entities claiming to be governments as foreign terrorist organizations, to impose certain measures with respect to countries that support such entities, 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 “Preventing Usurpation
5 of Power and Privileges by Extralegal Territories’ Sedition
6 Act of 2022” or the “PUPPETS Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION AS FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZA-**
2 **TIONS OF UNELECTED ENTITIES CLAIMING**
3 **TO BE GOVERNMENTS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Each entity described in sub-
5 section (b) is designated as—

6 (1) a foreign terrorist organization pursuant to
7 section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act
8 (8 U.S.C. 1189); and

9 (2) a specially designated global terrorist orga-
10 nization under Executive Order 13224 (50 U.S.C.
11 1701 note; relating to blocking property and prohib-
12 iting transactions with persons who commit, threat-
13 en to commit, or support terrorism), as amended be-
14 fore, on, or after the date of the enactment of this
15 Act.

16 (b) ENTITIES DESCRIBED.—An entity described in
17 this subsection is an entity holding itself out to be the
18 government of—

19 (1) the Donetsk People’s Republic, the Luhansk
20 People’s Republic, or any other region of Ukraine,
21 that was not elected through the presidential or par-
22 liamentary elections in 2019 or local elections in
23 2020;

24 (2) the Pridnestrovian Moldovan Republic;

25 (3) the Republic of South Ossetia; or

26 (4) the Republic of Abkhazia.

1 **SEC. 3. NON-RECOGNITION OF SOVEREIGNTY BY**
2 **UNELECTED ENTITIES CLAIMING TO BE GOV-**
3 **ERNMENTS.**

4 (a) UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES.—The Sec-
5 retary of Defense may not take any action, including any
6 movement of aircraft or vessels that implies recognition
7 of the sovereignty of any entity described in section 2(b)
8 over territory or airspace claimed by the government of
9 Ukraine, Moldova, or Georgia.

10 (b) UNITED STATES FLAGGED VESSELS.—No vessel
11 that is issued a certificate of documentation under chapter
12 121 of title 46, United States Code, may take any action
13 that implies recognition of the sovereignty of any entity
14 described in section 2(b) over territory or airspace claimed
15 by the government of Ukraine, Moldova, or Georgia.

16 (c) UNITED STATES AIRCRAFT.—No aircraft oper-
17 ated by an air carrier that holds an air carrier certificate
18 issued under chapter 411 of title 49, United States Code,
19 may take any action that implies recognition of the sov-
20 ereignty of any entity described in section 2(b) over terri-
21 tory or airspace claimed by the government of Ukraine,
22 Moldova, or Georgia.

1 **SEC. 4. MEASURES WITH RESPECT TO COUNTRIES THAT**
2 **SUPPORT UNELECTED ENTITIES CLAIMING**
3 **TO BE GOVERNMENTS.**

4 (a) IDENTIFICATION OF COUNTRIES THAT ASSIST
5 UNELECTED ENTITIES CLAIMING TO BE GOVERN-
6 MENTS.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after
8 the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180
9 days thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit
10 to Congress a report identifying each country the
11 government of which the Secretary determines, after
12 February 23, 2022—

13 (A) recognizes the sovereignty of an entity
14 described in section 2(b) over territory or air-
15 space claimed by the government of Ukraine,
16 Moldova, or Georgia; or

17 (B) provides material assistance or support
18 to such an entity.

19 (2) FORM.—The report required by paragraph
20 (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may
21 include a classified annex if the Secretary deter-
22 mines it is necessary for the national security inter-
23 ests of the United States to do so.

24 (3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary
25 shall publish the unclassified part of the report re-

1 quired by paragraph (1) on a publicly available
2 website of the Department of State.

3 (b) PROHIBITION ON FOREIGN ASSISTANCE.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided by para-
5 graph (2) or (3), no amounts may be obligated or
6 expended to provide foreign assistance to the govern-
7 ment of any country identified in a report required
8 by subsection (a).

9 (2) EXCEPTION.—This subsection shall not
10 apply with respect to Ukraine, Taiwan, humani-
11 tarian assistance, disaster assistance, emergency
12 food assistance, or the Peace Corps.

13 (3) WAIVER.—The President may waive the ap-
14 plication of paragraph (1) with respect to the gov-
15 ernment of a country if the President determines
16 that the waiver is in the national interests of the
17 United States.

18 (c) DESIGNATION AS STATE SPONSORS OF TER-
19 RORISM.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The government of each
21 country identified in a report required by subsection
22 (a) shall be designated as a state sponsor of ter-
23 rorism.

24 (2) STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM DE-
25 FINED.—In this subsection, the term “state sponsor

1 of terrorism” means a country the government of
2 which the Secretary of State has determined has re-
3 peatedly provided support for acts of international
4 terrorism, for purposes of—

5 (A) section 1754(c)(1)(A)(i) of the Export
6 Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C.
7 4813(c)(1)(A)(i));

8 (B) section 620A of the Foreign Assistance
9 Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371);

10 (C) section 40(d) of the Arms Export Con-
11 trol Act (22 U.S.C. 2780(d)); or

12 (D) any other provision of law.

13 **SEC. 5. TERMINATION.**

14 The requirements of this Act terminate on December
15 31, 2023.