



S. 6

To ensure that bodies of the United Nations are funded by the United States in essential situations if the Palestine Liberation Organization is recognized as a member state by bodies of the United Nations, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 30, 2013

Mr. MENON (for himself and Mr. AKHTAR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations for a period to be subsequently determined by the President Pro Tempore, for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

A BILL

To ensure that bodies of the United Nations are funded by the United States in essential situations if the Palestine Liberation Organization is recognized as a member state by bodies of the United Nations, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of*
2 *Representatives of the United States of America in*
3 *Congress assembled,*

4 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

5 This Act may be cited as the "Discretionary
6 Allowance In United Nations Funding Act of 2014".

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS, SCOPE, AND PURPOSE.**

8 (a) Findings.

9 Congress finds the following:

10 (1) On November 29, 2012, with 138 in favor to 9
11 against (Canada, Czech Republic, Israel, Marshall
12 Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru,
13 Panama, Palau, United States), with 41 abstentions,
14 the United Nations General Assembly accorded the
15 Palestine Liberation Organization 'Non-Member
16 Observer State' status in the United Nations.

17 (2) In November of 2011, the United States cut
18 funding for the United Nations Educational, Scientific,
19 and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), after its member
20 countries defied a U.S. warning and approved a
21 Palestinian bid for full membership in the body.
22 According to current U.S. law, U.S. funding to U.N.
23 bodies that recognize the Palestine Liberation
24 Organization must be cut. The State Department
25 therefore was forced to cancel a \$60 million payment
26 to UNESCO scheduled for that November, and has
27 since not participated in funding UNESCO. The
28 Department of State warned of a 'cascade' effect within
29 other U.N. bodies that might follow UNESCO's lead,
30 potentially eliminating major U.S. funding for U.N.
31 bodies such as the World Health Organization (WHO)
32 and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).
33 Such funding puts critical operations of the U.N., such
34 as monitoring illegal nuclear programs around the
35 world, at total risk of being defunded.

36 (b) Scope and Purpose.

37 The overall purpose of this Act is to amend Pub.L. 101
 38 and Pub.L. 103 to allow the United States Department
 39 of State under the Secretary of State to determine
 40 when U.S. law dictating the elimination of funding to
 41 bodies of the U.N. that recognize the Palestine
 42 Liberation Organization should be waived in order to
 43 provide critical funding to those bodies of the U.N. that
 44 are deemed essential for the maintenance of world
 45 peace and security, and for other purposes.

46 **SEC. 3. DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY OF THE**
 47 **DEPARTMENT OF STATE IN FUNDING AGENCIES**
 48 **OF THE UNITED NATIONS THAT RECOGNIZE THE**
 49 **PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION.**

50 Pub.L. 101-246, Title IV, § 414, subsection (a) is
 51 amended such that 'unless determined by the
 52 Secretary of State to be absolutely essential for the
 53 maintenance of world peace and security, and/or
 54 upholding the international standing of the United
 55 States' is added directly after 'Palestine Liberation
 56 Organization the same standing as member states' so
 57 that the full subsection reads:

58 '(a) Prohibition.— No funds authorized to be
 59 appropriated by this Act or any other Act shall be
 60 available for the United Nations or any specialized
 61 agency thereof which accords the Palestine Liberation
 62 Organization the same standing as member states,
 63 unless determined by the Secretary of State to be

64 absolutely essential for the maintenance of world
 65 peace and security, and/or upholding the international
 66 standing of the United States.'

67 **SEC. 4. DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY OF THE**
 68 **DEPARTMENT OF STATE IN FUNDING AGENCIES**
 69 **OF THE UNITED NATIONS THAT RECOGNIZE NON-**
 70 **TRADITIONAL ENTITIES AS STATES.**

71 Pub.L. 103-236, Title IV, § 410 is amended such that a
 72 subsection (3) is added directly after subsection (2)
 73 that shall read:

74 '(3) The requirements of this section may be waived if
 75 the Secretary of State finds such action to be
 76 absolutely essential in maintaining world peace and
 77 security, and/or upholding the international standing of
 78 the United States.'

79 The United States is committed in its support for the
 80 State of Israel, and shall continue to mediate a
 81 peaceful and constructive solution to the Israeli-
 82 Palestinian conflict.

83 **SEC. 5. REAFFIRMATION OF COMMITMENT.**

84 Congress affirms that the United States is committed in
 85 its full support for the State of Israel, and shall
 86 continue to seek a peaceful and constructive solution
 87 to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The original intent of
 88 the law to prohibit funding to entities that recognize
 89 the Palestine Liberation Organization, for purposes of
 90 preventing destabilization in the seeking of a peaceful

91 solution, is upheld in its entirety, with exception to
92 extraordinary situations as outlined in this Act.

93 **SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

94 All sections of this Act shall go into effect immediately
95 after passage.

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