117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. ____

To provide for congressional review of actions to terminate or waive sanctions imposed with respect to Iran.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. McCaul introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on ________________

A BILL

To provide for congressional review of actions to terminate or waive sanctions imposed with respect to Iran.

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Iran Sanctions Relief Review Act of 2021”.

March 1, 2021 (1:10 p.m.)
SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW OF CERTAIN ACTIONS RELATING TO SANCTIONS IMPOSED WITH RESPECT TO IRAN.

(a) Submission to Congress of Proposed Action.—

(1) In General.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, before taking any action described in paragraph (2), the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and leadership a report that describes the proposed action and the reasons for that action.

(2) Actions described.—

(A) In General.—An action described in this paragraph is—

(i) an action to terminate the application of any sanctions described in subparagraph (B);

(ii) with respect to sanctions described in subparagraph (B) imposed by the President with respect to a person, an action to waive the application of those sanctions with respect to that person; or

(iii) a licensing action that significantly alters United States foreign policy with respect to Iran.
(B) Sanctions described.—The sanctions described in this subparagraph are sanctions with respect to Iran provided for under—

(i) the Iran Sanctions Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–172; 50 U.S.C. 1701 note);

(ii) the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010 (22 U.S.C. 8501 et seq.);

(iii) section 1245 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8513a);

(iv) the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8701 et seq.);

(v) the Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8801 et seq.);

(vi) the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 note); or

(vii) any other statute or Executive order that requires or authorizes the imposition of sanctions with respect to Iran.
(3) Description of type of action.—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) with respect to an action described in paragraph (2) shall include a description of whether the action—

(A) is not intended to significantly alter United States foreign policy with respect to Iran; or

(B) is intended to significantly alter United States foreign policy with respect to Iran.

(4) Inclusion of additional matter.—

(A) In general.—Each report submitted under paragraph (1) that relates to an action that is intended to significantly alter United States foreign policy with respect to Iran shall include a description of—

(i) the significant alteration to United States foreign policy with respect to Iran;

(ii) the anticipated effect of the action on the national security interests of the United States; and

(iii) the policy objectives for which the sanctions affected by the action were initially imposed.
(B) REQUESTS FROM BANKING AND FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEES.—The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate or the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives may request the submission to the Committee of the matter described in clauses (ii) and (iii) of subparagraph (A) with respect to a report submitted under paragraph (1) that relates to an action that is not intended to significantly alter United States foreign policy with respect to Iran.

(5) CONFIDENTIALITY OF PROPRIETARY INFORMATION.—Proprietary information that can be associated with a particular person with respect to an action described in paragraph (2) may be included in a report submitted under paragraph (1) only if the appropriate congressional committees and leadership provide assurances of confidentiality, unless that person otherwise consents in writing to such disclosure.

(6) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Paragraph (2)(A)(iii) shall not be construed to require the submission of a report under paragraph (1) with respect to the routine issuance of a license that does not sig-
nificantly alter United States foreign policy with re-
spect to Iran.

(b) PERIOD FOR REVIEW BY CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—During the period of 30 cal-
endar days beginning on the date on which the
President submits a report under subsection
(a)(1)—

(A) in the case of a report that relates to
an action that is not intended to significantly
alter United States foreign policy with respect
to Iran, the Committee on Banking, Housing,
and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Com-
mittee on Financial Services of the House of
Representatives should, as appropriate, hold
hearings and briefings and otherwise obtain in-
formation in order to fully review the report;
and

(B) in the case of a report that relates to
an action that is intended to significantly alter
United States foreign policy with respect to
Iran, the Committee on Foreign Relations of
the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Af-
fairs of the House of Representatives should, as
appropriate, hold hearings and briefings and
otherwise obtain information in order to fully 
review the report.

(2) EXCEPTION.—The period for congressional 
review under paragraph (1) of a report required to 
be submitted under subsection (a)(1) shall be 60 cal-
endar days if the report is submitted on or after 
July 10 and on or before September 7 in any cal-
endar year.

(3) LIMITATION ON ACTIONS DURING INITIAL 
CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW PERIOD.—Notwithstanding 
any other provision of law, during the period for 
congressional review provided for under paragraph 
(1) of a report submitted under subsection (a)(1) 
proposing an action described in subsection (a)(2), 
including any additional period for such review as 
applicable under the exception provided in paragraph 
(2), the President may not take that action unless 
a joint resolution of approval with respect to that ac-
tion is enacted in accordance with subsection (e).

(4) LIMITATION ON ACTIONS DURING PRESI-
DENTIAL CONSIDERATION OF A JOINT RESOLUTION 
OF DISAPPROVAL.—Notwithstanding any other pro-
vision of law, if a joint resolution of disapproval re-

tating to a report submitted under subsection (a)(1) 
proposing an action described in subsection (a)(2)
passes both Houses of Congress in accordance with subsection (c), the President may not take that action for a period of 12 calendar days after the date of passage of the joint resolution of disapproval.

(5) LIMITATION ON ACTIONS DURING CONGRESSIONAL RECONSIDERATION OF A JOINT RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if a joint resolution of disapproval relating to a report submitted under subsection (a)(1) proposing an action described in subsection (a)(2) passes both Houses of Congress in accordance with subsection (c), and the President vetoes the joint resolution, the President may not take that action for a period of 10 calendar days after the date of the President’s veto.

(6) EFFECT OF ENACTMENT OF A JOINT RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if a joint resolution of disapproval relating to a report submitted under subsection (a)(1) proposing an action described in subsection (a)(2) is enacted in accordance with subsection (c), the President may not take that action.

(e) JOINT RESOLUTIONS OF DISAPPROVAL OR APPROVAL.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:
(A) JOINT RESOLUTION OF APPROVAL.—

The term “joint resolution of approval” means only a joint resolution of either House of Congress—

(i) the title of which is as follows: “A joint resolution approving the President’s proposal to take an action relating to the application of certain sanctions with respect to Iran.”; and

(ii) the sole matter after the resolving clause of which is the following: “Congress approves of the action relating to the application of sanctions imposed with respect to Iran proposed by the President in the report submitted to Congress under section 2(a)(1) of the Iran Sanctions Relief Review Act of 2021 on ____________ relating to ____________,” with the first blank space being filled with the appropriate date and the second blank space being filled with a short description of the proposed action.

(B) JOINT RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL.—The term “joint resolution of dis-
approval” means only a joint resolution of either House of Congress—

(i) the title of which is as follows: “A joint resolution disapproving the President’s proposal to take an action relating to the application of certain sanctions with respect to Iran.”; and

(ii) the sole matter after the resolving clause of which is the following: “Congress disapproves of the action relating to the application of sanctions imposed with respect to Iran proposed by the President in the report submitted to Congress under section 2(a)(1) of the Iran Sanctions Relief Review Act of 2021 on __________ relating to __________.”, with the first blank space being filled with the appropriate date and the second blank space being filled with a short description of the proposed action.

(2) INTRODUCTION.—During the period of 30 calendar days provided for under subsection (b)(1), including any additional period as applicable under the exception provided in subsection (b)(2), a joint
resolution of approval or joint resolution of dis-
approval may be introduced—

(A) in the House of Representatives, by
the majority leader or the minority leader; and

(B) in the Senate, by the majority leader
(or the majority leader’s designee) or the mi-
nority leader (or the minority leader’s des-
ignee).

(3) FLOOR CONSIDERATION IN HOUSE OF REP-
RESENTATIVES.—If a committee of the House of
Representatives to which a joint resolution of ap-
proval or joint resolution of disapproval has been re-
ferred has not reported the joint resolution within
10 calendar days after the date of referral, that
committee shall be discharged from further consider-
ation of the joint resolution.

(4) CONSIDERATION IN THE SENATE.—

(A) COMMITTEE REFERRAL.—A joint reso-
lution of approval or joint resolution of dis-
approval introduced in the Senate shall be—

(i) referred to the Committee on
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs if
the joint resolution relates to a report
under subsection (a)(3)(A) that relates to
an action that is not intended to signifi-
cantly alter United States foreign policy with respect to Iran; and

(ii) referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations if the joint resolution relates to a report under subsection (a)(3)(B) that relates to an action that is intended to significantly alter United States foreign policy with respect to Iran.

(B) REPORTING AND DISCHARGE.—If the committee to which a joint resolution of approval or joint resolution of disapproval was referred has not reported the joint resolution within 10 calendar days after the date of referral of the joint resolution, that committee shall be discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution and the joint resolution shall be placed on the appropriate calendar.

(C) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—Notwithstanding Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, it is in order at any time after the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs or the Committee on Foreign Relations, as the case may be, reports a joint resolution of approval or joint resolution of disapproval to the Senate or has been discharged
from consideration of such a joint resolution
(even though a previous motion to the same ef-
fect has been disagreed to) to move to proceed
to the consideration of the joint resolution, and
all points of order against the joint resolution
(and against consideration of the joint resolu-
tion) are waived. The motion to proceed is not
debatable. The motion is not subject to a mo-
tion to postpone. A motion to reconsider the
vote by which the motion is agreed to or dis-
agreed to shall not be in order.

(D) RULINGS OF THE CHAIR ON PROCE-
DURE.—Appeals from the decisions of the Chair
relating to the application of the rules of the
Senate, as the case may be, to the procedure re-
lating to a joint resolution of approval or joint
resolution of disapproval shall be decided with-
out debate.

(E) CONSIDERATION OF VETO MES-
SAGES.—Debate in the Senate of any veto mes-
 sage with respect to a joint resolution of ap-
proval or joint resolution of disapproval, includ-
ing all debatable motions and appeals in con-
nection with the joint resolution, shall be lim-
ited to 10 hours, to be equally divided between,
and controlled by, the majority leader and the
minority leader or their designees.

(5) Rules relating to Senate and House
of Representatives.—

(A) Treatment of Senate Joint Resolu-
tion in House.—In the House of Rep-
resentatives, the following procedures shall
apply to a joint resolution of approval or a joint
resolution of disapproval received from the Sen-
ate (unless the House has already passed a
joint resolution relating to the same proposed
action):

(i) The joint resolution shall be re-
ferred to the appropriate committees.

(ii) If a committee to which a joint
resolution has been referred has not re-
ported the joint resolution within 2 cal-
endar days after the date of referral, that
committee shall be discharged from further
consideration of the joint resolution.

(iii) Beginning on the third legislative
day after each committee to which a joint
resolution has been referred reports the
joint resolution to the House or has been
discharged from further consideration
thereof, it shall be in order to move to pro-
ceed to consider the joint resolution in the
House. All points of order against the mo-
tion are waived. Such a motion shall not be
in order after the House has disposed of a
motion to proceed on the joint resolution.
The previous question shall be considered
as ordered on the motion to its adoption
without intervening motion. The motion
shall not be debatable. A motion to recons-
sider the vote by which the motion is dis-
posed of shall not be in order.

(iv) The joint resolution shall be con-
sidered as read. All points of order against
the joint resolution and against its consid-
eration are waived. The previous question
shall be considered as ordered on the joint
resolution to final passage without inter-
vening motion except 2 hours of debate
equally divided and controlled by the spon-
sor of the joint resolution (or a designee)
and an opponent. A motion to reconsider
the vote on passage of the joint resolution
shall not be in order.
(B) TREATMENT OF HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION IN SENATE.—

(i) RECEIPT BEFORE PASSAGE.—If, before the passage by the Senate of a joint resolution of approval or joint resolution of disapproval, the Senate receives an identical joint resolution from the House of Representatives, the following procedures shall apply:

(I) That joint resolution shall not be referred to a committee.

(II) With respect to that joint resolution—

(aa) the procedure in the Senate shall be the same as if no joint resolution had been received from the House of Representatives; but

(bb) the vote on passage shall be on the joint resolution from the House of Representatives.

(ii) RECEIPT AFTER PASSAGE.—If, following passage of a joint resolution of approval or joint resolution of disapproval
in the Senate, the Senate receives an identical joint resolution from the House of Representatives, that joint resolution shall be placed on the appropriate Senate calendar.

(iii) **No Companion Measure.**—If a joint resolution of approval or a joint resolution of disapproval is received from the House, and no companion joint resolution has been introduced in the Senate, the Senate procedures under this subsection shall apply to the House joint resolution.

(C) **Application to Revenue Measures.**—The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply in the House of Representatives to a joint resolution of approval or joint resolution of disapproval that is a revenue measure.

(6) **Rules of House of Representatives and Senate.**—This subsection is enacted by Congress—

(A) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate and the House of Representatives, respectively, and as such is deemed a part of the rules of each House, respectively, and su-
persedes other rules only to the extent that it
is inconsistent with such rules; and

(B) with full recognition of the constitu-
tional right of either House to change the rules
(so far as relating to the procedure of that
House) at any time, in the same manner, and
to the same extent as in the case of any other
rule of that House.

(d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES
AND LEADERSHIP DEFINED.—In this section, the term
“appropriate congressional committees and leadership”
means—

(1) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and
Urban Affairs, the Committee on Foreign Relations,
and the majority and minority leaders of the Senate;
and

(2) the Committee on Financial Services, the
Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the Speaker, the
majority leader, and the minority leader of the
House of Representatives.