

S 1121

Middle East Trade and Engagement Act of 2003

Congress: 108 (2003–2005, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: May 22, 2003

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (text of measure as introduced: CR S7005-7007)

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (text of measure as introduced: CR S7005-7007)
(May 22, 2003)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/108th-congress/senate-bill/1121>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Baucus, Max [D-MT]

Party: Democratic • **State:** MT • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. McCain, John [R-AZ]	R · AZ		May 22, 2003
Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA]	D · WA		Jun 9, 2003
Sen. Daschle, Thomas A. [D-SD]	D · SD		Jun 11, 2003
Sen. Feinstein, Dianne [D-CA]	D · CA		Jun 17, 2003
Sen. DeWine, Mike [R-OH]	R · OH		Mar 29, 2004

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Finance Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 22, 2003

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
108 HR 2467	Related bill	Jun 19, 2003: Referred to the Subcommittee on Trade.
108 HR 2267	Identical bill	Jun 5, 2003: Referred to the Subcommittee on Trade.

Middle East Trade and Engagement Act of 2003 - Authorizes the President to designate any of 18 specified Middle Eastern countries as a beneficiary country if the country meets specified requirements, which focus on economic policy, the rule of law, political freedom, alignment with U.S. trade and foreign policy interests, the promotion of human rights, and combating terrorism. Authorizes the President to designate the Palestinian Authority as a beneficiary country if it satisfies specified requirements, including cooperation in anti-terrorism efforts and the acceptance of Israel's right to exist.

Authorizes the President to designate articles from all beneficiary countries, including Israel and Jordan, as eligible for duty-free treatment, subject to rules of origin requirements and certain restrictions under existing law.

Requires the President to establish a United States-Middle East Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum.

Declares that bilateral free trade agreements should be negotiated with interested countries or political entities in the greater Middle East. Requires any country or political entity that desires to negotiate such an agreement with the United States to be a member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) or working toward WTO membership and to satisfy the criteria for designation as a beneficiary country. Directs the President to develop a plan for negotiating and entering into trade agreements with interested beneficiary countries.

Terminates the preferential treatment extended to beneficiary countries under this Act on December 31, 2011.

Actions Timeline

- **May 22, 2003:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 22, 2003:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S7004-7005)
- **May 22, 2003:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance. (text of measure as introduced: CR S7005-7007)