

## S 138

### Preventing Destabilization of Iraq and Syria Act of 2017

**Congress:** 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** International Affairs

**Introduced:** Jan 12, 2017

**Current Status:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

**Latest Action:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (Jan 12, 2017)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/138>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Rubio, Marco [R-FL]

**Party:** Republican • **State:** FL • **Chamber:** Senate

### Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		Jan 12, 2017

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Jan 12, 2017

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

International Affairs

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 HR 4591	Related bill	<b>Nov 28, 2018:</b> Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

## Preventing Destabilization of Iraq and Syria Act of 2017

This bill directs the President to impose U.S.-based property blocking and entry sanctions against any foreign person that: (1) is responsible for or complicit in actions that threaten the peace, security, or stability of Iraq or Syria, actions or policies that undermine economic reconstruction and political reform in Iraq, or the obstruction of the delivery or distribution of, or access to, humanitarian assistance to the people of Iraq or Syria; (2) has materially assisted or provided financial, material, or technological support for any such activity; or (3) is owned or controlled by, or has acted on behalf of, a foreign person that has carried out any such activity.

The President shall: (1) determine whether any Iranian, Syrian, or Russian person, including specified individuals, has engaged in such activities; and (2) submit a report on Iranian activities in Iraq and Syria.

It is the sense of Congress that: (1) the government of Syria is in violation of numerous U.N. Security Council Resolutions regarding the provision of humanitarian assistance to the people of Syria, and (2) the government of the Russian Federation is complicit in the Syrian humanitarian crisis.

The President may furnish assistance: (1) to support humanitarian activities inside and outside of Syria, (2) promote humanitarian access to populations in need, and (3) for a peaceful resolution of the Syrian conflict.

The President shall impose specified U.S.-based property blocking and entry sanctions against a foreign person that knowingly provides significant financial, material, or technological support: (1) to the government of Syria and the Central Bank of Syria, including Syria's intelligence and security services or its armed forces, including through money laundering or with respect to Syria's gas or petroleum production or civilian aircraft services; and (2) that materially contributes to Syria's ability to acquire or develop ballistic missiles, chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons, or destabilizing numbers and types of advanced conventional weapons.

The Syria Human Rights Accountability Act of 2012 is amended to direct the President to impose U.S.-based property blocking and entry sanctions against persons responsible for or complicit in: (1) directing the commission of serious human rights abuses against citizens of Syria or their family members, regardless of whether such abuses occurred in Syria; or (2) transferring to Syria certain military items or goods or technologies that may be used to commit human rights abuses.

The President shall: (1) submit an updated list of Syrian officials who are responsible for or complicit in the commission of serious human rights abuses against Syrian citizens, and (2) assess the potential effectiveness of a no-fly zone over Syria.

The State Department may provide assistance to entities taking criminal and evidence gathering actions for prosecution of individuals who have committed crimes against humanity or war crimes in Syria since March 2011. The President may suspend sanctions against Syria under specified conditions.

The bill: (1) expresses the sense of Congress with respect to a transitional government in Syria, and (2) sets forth activities and transactions that are exempt from sanctions.

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## Actions Timeline

- **Jan 12, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 12, 2017:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.