

S 854

Enhancing Human Rights Protections in Arms Sales Act of 2019

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: Mar 25, 2019

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. (Mar 25, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/854>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Cardin, Benjamin L. [D-MD]

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

Cosponsors (8 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		Mar 25, 2019
Sen. Markey, Edward J. [D-MA]	D · MA		Mar 25, 2019
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		Mar 25, 2019
Sen. Casey, Robert P., Jr. [D-PA]	D · PA		Mar 27, 2019
Sen. Paul, Rand [R-KY]	R · KY		Mar 27, 2019
Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]	D · OR		Apr 1, 2019
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		Apr 1, 2019
Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT]	D · CT		May 2, 2019

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Relations Committee	Senate	Referred To	Mar 25, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Enhancing Human Rights Protections in Arms Sales Act of 2019

This bill requires the Department of State to certify that a proposed recipient of certain controlled defense articles and services complies with various human rights-related requirements.

For each proposed export of articles and services that fall within certain categories of the U.S. Munitions List, excluding ground-based missile defense systems, the State Department shall make various certifications, including that

- during the fiscal year in which the transfer will take place, the articles or services will not be used in hostilities where the receiving government has committed gross violations of internationally recognized human rights;
- during the last three fiscal years and the one in which the transfer took place, the receiving government has not ordered ethnic cleansing or used child soldiers; and
- the receiving government will facilitate unfettered civilian access to humanitarian relief in any conflict it is engaged in.

The State Department shall report to Congress if it learns of facts that contradict a certification made in the last three years.

The President may waive the certification requirement for national security purposes, unless Congress enacts a joint resolution prohibiting the transaction.

The State Department shall report to Congress a strategy to ensure human rights protections for U.S. military assistance and arms transfers.

The bill expands an existing monitoring program to include monitoring to ensure that arms and services exported as foreign assistance are not being used by non-state actors and proxies for committing gross human rights abuses.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 25, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
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