

S 3467

UNRWA Accountability and Transparency Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: Jan 10, 2022

Current Status: Read the second time. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 247.

Latest Action: Read the second time. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 247. (Jan 18, 2022)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/3467>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Risch, James E. [R-ID]

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

Cosponsors (6 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Boozman, John [R-AR]	R · AR		Jan 10, 2022
Sen. Crapo, Mike [R-ID]	R · ID		Jan 10, 2022
Sen. Scott, Rick [R-FL]	R · FL		Jan 10, 2022
Sen. Thune, John [R-SD]	R · SD		Jan 10, 2022
Sen. Tillis, Thomas [R-NC]	R · NC		Jan 10, 2022
Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]	R · MS		Jan 10, 2022

Committee Activity

No committee referrals or activity are recorded for this bill.

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
117 HR 4721	Identical bill	Aug 4, 2021: Referred to the Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, Central Asia and Nonproliferation.
117 S 2479	Identical bill	Jul 27, 2021: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

UNRWA Accountability and Transparency Act

This bill makes changes to U.S. foreign policy in matters concerning the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

For purposes of this policy, the bill defines *Palestinian refugee* as a person who (1) resided from June 1946 to May 1948 in Mandatory Palestine (a region controlled by Britain until 1948), (2) was personally displaced as a result of the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict, and (3) has not accepted citizenship or other permanent adjustment in status in another country. Furthermore, under U.S. policy, derivative refugee status may only extend to the spouse or minor child of such a Palestinian refugee.

The bill withholds U.S. funding for the UNRWA unless the Department of State makes certifications concerning the UNRWA's staff, partners, and funding. Specifically, the State Department must certify that neither UNRWA staff and partners nor its funding and facilities are affiliated with terrorism or engaged in the dissemination of certain rhetoric, such as calling for the destruction of Israel or describing Israelis as *occupiers* or *settlers*. Additionally, the State Department must certify that the UNRWA is subject to comprehensive independent financial audits and is unaffiliated with any financial institutions that the United States considers to be complicit in money laundering or terror financing.

The State Department must also implement a plan to encourage other countries to align their activities and efforts regarding the UNRWA with U.S. policy objectives, including the phaseout of the UNRWA by resettling Palestinian refugees outside of Israel.

Actions Timeline

- **Jan 18, 2022:** Read the second time. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 247.
- **Jan 10, 2022:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jan 10, 2022:** Introduced in the Senate. Read the first time. Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under Read the First Time.