

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1559

To amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to establish a United States Ambassador at Large for Arctic Affairs, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 16, 2017

Mr. SENSENBRENNER (for himself, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Ms. PINGREE, and Mr. GARAMENDI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to establish a United States Ambassador at Large for Arctic Affairs, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “United States Amba-  
5 sador at Large for Arctic Affairs Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR AT LARGE FOR ARC-**  
2 **TIC AFFAIRS.**

3 Title I of the State Department Basic Authorities Act  
4 of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a et seq.) is amended by adding  
5 at the end the following new section:

6 **“SEC. 63. UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR AT LARGE FOR**  
7 **ARCTIC AFFAIRS.**

8 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within  
9 the Department of State an Ambassador at Large for Arc-  
10 tic Affairs (referred to in this section as the ‘Ambas-  
11 sador’), appointed in accordance with subsection (b).

12 “(b) APPOINTMENT.—The Ambassador shall be ap-  
13 pointed by the President, by and with the advice and con-  
14 sent of the Senate.

15 “(c) DUTIES.—

16 “(1) DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION.—Subject  
17 to the direction of the President and the Secretary  
18 of State, the Ambassador is authorized to represent  
19 the United States in matters and cases relevant to  
20 Arctic affairs in—

21 “(A) contacts with foreign governments,  
22 intergovernmental organizations, and special-  
23 ized agencies of the United Nations, the Arctic  
24 Council, and other international organizations  
25 of which the United States is a member; and

1                   “(B) multilateral conferences and meetings  
2 relating to Arctic affairs.

3                   “(2) CHAIR OF THE ARCTIC COUNCIL.—The  
4 Ambassador shall serve as the Chair of the Arctic  
5 Council when the United States holds the Chairman-  
6 ship of the Arctic Council.

7                   “(3) POLICIES AND PROCEDURES.—The Am-  
8 bassador shall coordinate United States Arctic poli-  
9 cies.”.

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