

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5174

To provide for increased defense cooperation between the United States and
Moldova.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 8, 2023

Ms. ROSS (for herself and Mr. LAWLER) introduced the following bill; which
was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To provide for increased defense cooperation between the
United States and Moldova.

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-Moldova
5 Defense Partnership Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress that—

8 (1) Moldova is a close partner in the European
9 region and the United States should remain com-
10 mitted to supporting its security and prosperity;

1 (2) Moldova’s military relies on outdated Soviet
2 era equipment that needs to be replaced;

3 (3) senior Moldovan defense officials have stat-
4 ed they need \$275 million to modernize Moldova’s
5 Armed Forces;

6 (4) the United States should increase and deep-
7 en efforts to partner with and support the mod-
8 ernization of the Moldovan military;

9 (5) it is in the interest of the United States
10 that Moldova continues to transition its military
11 equipment away from Russian-produced platforms
12 and weapons systems through the European Recapi-
13 talization Incentive Program;

14 (6) the strategic partnership that the United
15 States and Moldova have established over 30 years
16 is mutually beneficial to the national security of both
17 countries;

18 (7) the United States needs to support
19 Moldova’s reform process consisting of a transition
20 from conscription to an all-volunteer/professional
21 force, modernizing equipment from Soviet to West-
22 ern systems, creating a “mobile, modular, flexible
23 and function army,” according to the 2022 state-
24 ment by Defense Minister Antolie Nosatii, and em-
25 phasizing air defense capabilities; and

1 (8) the United States should continue to invest
2 in International Military Education and Training
3 programs in Moldova.

4 **SEC. 3. FUNDING FOR THE EUROPEAN RECAPITALIZATION**
5 **INCENTIVE PROGRAM.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—To the maximum extent feasible,
7 amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for the
8 European Recapitalization Incentive Program should be
9 considered for Moldova as appropriate to assist the coun-
10 try in meeting its defense needs and transitioning away
11 from Russian-produced military equipment.

12 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
13 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall
14 submit to the appropriate congressional committees a re-
15 port that provides a full accounting of all funds distributed
16 under the European Recapitalization Incentive Program,
17 including—

18 (1) a description of how the funds were used in
19 Moldova; and

20 (2) an accounting of remaining equipment in
21 Moldova that was provided by the then-Soviet Union
22 or Russian Federation.

23 (c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—
24 For purposes of subsection (b), the term “appropriate con-
25 gressional committees” means—

1 (1) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the
2 Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee
3 on Appropriations of the Senate; and

4 (2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the
5 Committee on Armed Services, and the Committee
6 on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

7 **SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON LOAN PROGRAM.**

8 It is the sense of Congress that, as appropriate, the
9 United States Government should provide direct loans to
10 Moldova for the procurement of defense articles, defense
11 services, and design and construction services pursuant to
12 the authority of section 23 of the Arms Export Control
13 Act (22 U.S.C. 2763) to support the further development
14 of Moldova's military forces.

15 **SEC. 5. IMET COOPERATION WITH MOLDOVA.**

16 For each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028, there
17 is authorized \$1,000,000 for International Military Edu-
18 cation and Training assistance for Moldova, which may
19 be made available for the following purposes:

20 (1) Training of future leaders.

21 (2) Fostering a better understanding of the
22 United States.

23 (3) Establishing a rapport between the United
24 States Armed Forces and Moldova's military to
25 build partnerships for the future.

1 (4) Enhancement of interoperability and capa-
2 bilities for joint operations.

3 (5) Focusing on professional military education,
4 civilian control of the military, and protection of
5 human rights.

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