

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5232

To direct the Secretary of Defense to develop a plan to equip and train Iraqi security forces and Kurdish Peshmerga forces, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 18, 2023

Mr. BACON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Defense to develop a plan to equip and train Iraqi security forces and Kurdish Peshmerga forces, 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 “Iraqi and Kurdish
5 Peshmerga Forces Defense Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. PLAN TO EQUIP AND TRAIN IRAQI SECURITY**
2 **FORCES AND KURDISH PESHMERGA FORCES.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than February 1, 2024,
4 the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the Sec-
5 retary of State, shall develop a plan of action to equip
6 and train Iraqi security forces and Kurdish Peshmerga
7 forces to defend against attack by missiles, rockets, and
8 unmanned systems. The plan of action shall be based on
9 and informed by the results of the report submitted by
10 the Secretary of Defense pursuant to section 1237 of the
11 James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for
12 Fiscal Year 2023 (Public Law 117–263; 136 Stat. 2839).

13 (b) MATTERS.—The plan under subsection (a) shall
14 include the following:

15 (1) The provision of available equipment to Iraq
16 and the Iraqi Kurdistan Region to counter the air
17 and missile threats addressed in the report, to in-
18 clude air defense systems, to counter attack by mis-
19 siles, rockets, and unmanned systems.

20 (2) The provision of appropriate training of
21 Iraqi security forces and Kurdish Peshmerga forces
22 to support fielding and operational employment of
23 the available equipment described in paragraph (1).

24 (c) IMPLEMENTATION.—

25 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
26 graph (2), not later than 90 days after the date on

1 which the Secretary of Defense develops the plan
2 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall commence
3 the implementation of such plan.

4 (2) WAIVER.—The Secretary of Defense may
5 delay implementation of the plan under subsection
6 (a) if—

7 (A) the Secretary determines such imple-
8 mentation would adversely impact United
9 States stocks and military readiness;

10 (B) the Secretary notifies the congressional
11 defense committees of the proposed exercise of
12 such waiver; and

13 (C) a 10-day period has elapsed since such
14 notification.

15 (3) CONTINUED CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICA-
16 TION.—If the Secretary of Defense exercises the
17 waiver authority under paragraph (2), every 30 days
18 during the period beginning on the date of the initial
19 notification under paragraph (2)(B) and ending on
20 the date on which the implementation of the plan
21 under subsection (a) commences, the Secretary shall
22 notify the congressional defense committees of the
23 exercise of such authority.

24 (d) CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING.—Not later than July
25 1, 2024, the Secretary of Defense shall provide to the con-

1 gressional defense committees a briefing on progress of
2 the air defense equipping and training effort against the
3 air and missile threat to Iraq, including in the Iraqi
4 Kurdistan Region.

5 (e) CONGRESSIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEES DE-
6 FINED.—In this section, the term “congressional defense
7 committees” has the meaning given that term in section
8 101 of title 10, United States Code.

○