

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6423

To impose sanctions with respect to certain Russian financial institutions.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 18, 2018

Mr. COHEN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## A BILL

To impose sanctions with respect to certain Russian financial institutions.

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 “Punishing Continued  
5       Occupation of Ukraine Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO CER-**  
7       **TAIN RUSSIAN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.**

8       (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

9               (1) On February 27, 2014, the Russian Federa-  
10       tion unlawfully invaded Crimea and shortly there-  
11       after intervened and occupied parts of Ukraine.

1           (2) Russia continues to flout the Minsk Ac-  
2           cords, signed on September 5, 2014, by directly and  
3           indirectly supporting separatist forces in Ukraine.

4           (3) Sanctions to date have failed to alter Rus-  
5           sian President Vladimir Putin’s calculation regard-  
6           ing Ukraine and the Crimea.

7           (4) The Putin regime relies on several large fi-  
8           nancial institutions to implement its policies and  
9           keep the regime afloat.

10          (b) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the  
11          date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days  
12          thereafter for 5 years, the President shall determine  
13          whether the Russian Federation is in compliance with the  
14          Minsk Accords.

15          (c) IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.—

16               (1) IN GENERAL.—If the President, pursuant to  
17               subsection (b), determines that Russia is not in com-  
18               pliance with the Minsk Accords, the President shall  
19               impose the sanctions described in subsection (d)  
20               with respect to not less than three Russian financial  
21               institutions that are substantially affiliated with the  
22               Putin regime, including from among those institu-  
23               tions described in subsection (e).

1           (2) REQUIREMENT.—One of the financial insti-  
2           tutions to be sanctioned pursuant to this subsection  
3           shall include Vnesheconombank.

4           (d) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions de-  
5           scribed in this subsection are the exercise of all powers  
6           granted to the President by the International Emergency  
7           Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the ex-  
8           tent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in all  
9           property and interests in property of a financial institution  
10          determined by the President to be subject to subsection  
11          (b)(1) if such property and interests in property are in  
12          the United States, come within the United States, or are  
13          or come within the possession or control of a United  
14          States person.

15          (e) RUSSIAN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS DE-  
16          SCRIBED.—The financial institutions described in this  
17          subsection are the following:

- 18               (1) Sberbank.
- 19               (2) VTB Bank.
- 20               (3) Gazprombank.
- 21               (4) Bank of Moscow.
- 22               (5) Rosselkhozbank.
- 23               (6) Promsvyazbank.

24          (f) IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.—

1           (1) IMPLEMENTATION.—The President may ex-  
2           ercise all authorities provided to the President under  
3           sections 203 and 205 of the International Emer-  
4           gency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and  
5           1704) to carry out subsection (c).

6           (2) PENALTIES.—A person that violates, at-  
7           tempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a  
8           violation of subsection (c) or any regulation, license,  
9           or order issued to carry out subsection (b) shall be  
10          subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b)  
11          and (c) of section 206 of the International Emer-  
12          gency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the  
13          same extent as a person that commits an unlawful  
14          act described in subsection (a) of that section.

15          (g) TERMINATION.—The President may terminate  
16          the application of sanctions under subsection (c) with re-  
17          spect to a Russian financial institution if the President  
18          submits to Congress a notice of and justification for the  
19          termination.

20          (h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21                  (1) PERSON.—The term “person” means an in-  
22                  dividual or entity.

23                  (2) UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term  
24                  “United States person” means—

1           (A) a United States citizen or an alien law-  
2           fully admitted for permanent residence to the  
3           United States; or

4           (B) an entity organized under the laws of  
5           the United States or of any jurisdiction within  
6           the United States, including a foreign branch of  
7           such an entity.

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