

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7727

To establish an Ambassador-at-Large for the Arctic Region.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 19, 2024

Mrs. PELTOLA (for herself, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. AMODEI, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To establish an Ambassador-at-Large for the Arctic Region.

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. AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE FOR THE ARCTIC RE-**
4 **GION.**

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

1 **“SEC. 64. UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE FOR**
2 **THE ARCTIC REGION.**

3 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is authorized within
4 the Department of State an Ambassador-at-Large for the
5 Arctic Region, appointed under subsection (b).

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

9 “(c) DUTIES.—The Ambassador is authorized to rep-
10 resent the United States in matters and cases relevant to
11 Arctic affairs and shall be responsible to the Secretary of
12 State for all matters, programs, and related activities per-
13 taining to the Arctic region in the conduct of foreign policy
14 by the Department, including, as appropriate, leading the
15 coordination of programs carried out by United States
16 Government agencies abroad, and such other related du-
17 ties as the Secretary may from time to time designate.

18 “(d) AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY.—The Ambassador-
19 at-Large for the Arctic Region is authorized to maintain
20 continuous observation and coordination of all matters in-
21 dicated by the Secretary of State, including those per-
22 taining to energy, environment, trade, and infrastructure
23 development and maintenance, and, in consultation with
24 the heads of other relevant departments and agencies,
25 those pertaining to law enforcement and political-military
26 affairs in the conduct of foreign policy in the Arctic, in-

1 cluding programs carried out by other United States Gov-
2 ernment agencies when such programs pertain to the fol-
3 lowing matters, to the extent directed by the Secretary of
4 State:

5 “(1) National security.

6 “(2) Strengthening cooperation among Arctic
7 countries.

8 “(3) The promotion of responsible natural re-
9 source management and economic development.

10 “(4) Protecting the Arctic environment and
11 conserving its biological resources.

12 “(5) Arctic indigenous peoples, including by in-
13 volving them in decisions that affect them.

14 “(6) Scientific monitoring and research.

15 “(e) ADDITIONAL DUTIES.—In addition to the duties
16 and responsibilities specified in subsections (c) and (d),
17 the Ambassador-at-Large for the Arctic Region shall also
18 carry out such other relevant duties as the Secretary may
19 assign.

20 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21 “(1) ARCTIC REGION.—The term ‘Arctic region’
22 means—

23 “(A) the geographic region north of the
24 66.56083 parallel latitude north of the equator;

1 “(B) all the United States territory north
2 and west of the boundary formed by the Porcu-
3 pine, Yukon, and Kuskokwim Rivers;

4 “(C) all contiguous seas, including the Arc-
5 tic Ocean and the Beaufort, Bering, and
6 Chukchi Seas; and

7 “(D) the Aleutian Chain.

8 “(2) ARCTIC COUNTRIES.—The term ‘Arctic
9 countries’ means the permanent members of the
10 Arctic Council, namely the United States, Canada,
11 Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, and
12 Russia.”.

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