

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8365

To amend the Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act of 2014 to make modifications to that Act.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 10, 2024

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To amend the Sean and David Goldman International Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act of 2014 to make modifications to that Act.

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 “Sean and David Gold-
5 man Act Amendments”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 Section 3 of the Sean and David Goldman Inter-
8 national Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act of
9 2014 (22 U.S.C. 9101) is amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (3)—

1 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
2 (A), by striking “‘abduction case’ means a”
3 and inserting “‘abduction case’ means—

4 “(A) a”;

5 (B) by striking “(A) has been reported”
6 and inserting the following:

7 “(i) has been reported”;

8 (C) in clause (i) (as so designated), by
9 striking “; and” at the end;

10 (D) by striking “(B) meets the criteria”
11 and inserting the following:

12 “(ii) meets the criteria”;

13 (E) in clause (ii) (as so designated), by
14 striking the period at the end and inserting “;
15 and”; and

16 (F) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(B) includes any case reported involving
18 an application filed with the Central Authority
19 of the United States or directly with the foreign
20 central authority by a parent seeking rights of
21 access or return.”;”;

22 (2) by amending paragraph (7) to read as fol-
23 lows:

1 “(7) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
2 TEES.—The term ‘appropriate congressional com-
3 mittees’ means—

4 “(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs,
5 the Committee on Appropriations, the Com-
6 mittee on Judiciary, and the Committee on
7 Homeland Security of the House of Representa-
8 tives; and

9 “(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations,
10 the Committee on Appropriations, the Com-
11 mittee on Judiciary, and the Committee on
12 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
13 of the Senate.”; and

14 (3) in paragraph (11), by striking “16” and in-
15 serting “18”.

16 **SEC. 3. ACTION IN THE CASE OF ABDUCTED CHILDREN**
17 **WHO REACH THE AGE OF 16.**

18 Section 201 of the Sean and David Goldman Inter-
19 national Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act of
20 2014 (22 U.S.C. 9121) is amended by adding at the end
21 the following:

22 “(d) ACTION IN THE CASE OF ABDUCTED CHILDREN
23 WHO REACH THE AGE OF 16.— When an individual who
24 is an abducted child attains 16 years of age, a consular
25 officer from a United States diplomatic mission in the

1 country in which such individual resides shall, until either
2 the parent seeking assistance or the individual (after at-
3 taining 18 years of age) requests the officer to cease, an-
4 nually—

5 “(1) attempt to contact such individual, engag-
6 ing other agencies and foreign counterparts as nec-
7 essary to obtain a verified location;

8 “(2) advise such individual of applicable rights
9 under section 51.28 of title 22, Code of Federal
10 Regulations, including with respect to executing an
11 application for a passport on the individual’s own
12 behalf; and

13 “(3) advise such individual of applicable rights
14 under sections 3301 through 3327 of title 38,
15 United States Code.”.

16 **SEC. 4. STUDY OF INTERNATIONAL PARENTAL CHILD AB-**
17 **DUCTION.**

18 Section 202 of the Sean and David Goldman Inter-
19 national Child Abduction Prevention and Return Act of
20 2014 (22 U.S.C. 9122) is amended by inserting the fol-
21 lowing new subsection after subsection (g):

22 “(h) **STUDY OF INTERNATIONAL PARENTAL CHILD**
23 **ABDUCTION.**—

24 “(1) **STUDY REQUIRED.**— Not later than 1 year
25 after the date of the enactment of this subsection,

1 the Secretary of State shall seek to enter into an
2 agreement with an appropriate nongovernmental or-
3 ganization to study and publish a report on the
4 grave harm to abducted children and left-behind
5 parents as a result of international parental child
6 abduction.

7 “(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
8 There is authorized to be appropriated \$1,000,000
9 for each of fiscal years 2025 and 2026 to carry out
10 the study described in paragraph (1).”.

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