

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2265

To streamline and expedite the foreign military sales process, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 12, 2023

Mr. SULLIVAN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To streamline and expedite the foreign military sales process, 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 “Speeding the Execu-
5 tion of Arms Deliveries for Allies and Securing Trust Act”
6 or the “STEADFAST Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. STREAMLINING AND EXPEDITING FOREIGN MILI-**
8 **TARY SALES PROCESS.**

9 (a) SECURITY COOPERATION WORKFORCE AND DE-
10 FENSE ACQUISITION WORKFORCE.—

1 (1) RESPONSIBILITIES OF SECRETARY OF DE-
2 FENSE.—

(I) responsiveness to foreign
partner requests:

23 (II) ability to meet foreign part-
24 ner capability and delivery schedule
25 requirements; and

(III) advancement of foreign capability-building priorities described in the semiannual guidance issued under paragraph (2).

12 (i) the anticipated costs of new per-
13 sonnel and training to carry out such sub-
14 paragraph; and

18 (2) GUIDANCE.—

24 (i) based on the National Security
25 Strategy and the National Defense Strat-

egy for dissemination to the security co-operation workforce and the defense acquisition workforce; and

(ii) informed by the theater campaign plans and theater security cooperation strategies of such combatant commands.

9 (i) identify—

10 (I) regional and country-level for-
11 eign defense capability-building prior-
12 ities; and

13 (II) levels of urgency and desired
14 timelines for achieving foreign capa-
15 bility-building objectives; and

21 (3) COMMISSION.—

1 shall, subject to applicable law, provide inde-
2 pendent advice on matters studied under sub-
3 paragraph (B) directly to the Secretary of De-
4 fense and the Deputy Secretary of Defense
5 without obtaining the approval or concurrence
6 of any other official within the Department of
7 Defense.

8 (B) STUDY.—The Commission shall con-
9 duct a study of—

10 (i) the requirements for establishing a
11 contracting capacity that is—

12 (I) led by the Defense Security
13 Cooperation Agency; and

14 (II) specific to the foreign mili-
15 tary sales process; and

16 (ii) the feasibility and advisability
17 of—

18 (I) establishing, at the Depart-
19 ment of Defense level or the military
20 department level, a contracting capac-
21 ity that—

22 (aa) is specific to the execu-
23 tion of contracts for foreign mili-
24 tary sales;

(bb) is fully funded by the Defense Security Cooperation Agency using foreign military sales administrative funds so as to ensure that such capacity is dedicated solely to foreign military sales contracting;

(cc) is monitored by the Defense Security Cooperation Agency Chief Performance Office to ensure effectiveness in meeting foreign military sales contracting requirements; and

(dd) empowers the Director of the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, in coordination with the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy and the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment, to increase or decrease foreign military sales contracting capacity through the semiannual guidance under paragraph (2); and

7 (aa) transferring the organi-
8 zation, manpower, and functions
9 of the Defense Technology Secu-
10 rity Administration to the De-
11 fense Security Cooperation Agen-
12 cy so as to enable the Director of
13 the Defense Security Cooperation
14 Agency, as the head of the secu-
15 rity cooperation enterprise of the
16 Department of Defense—

17 (AA) to readily balance
18 potential risks to tech-
19 nologies with an existing un-
20 derstanding of foreign part-
21 ner capability needs and lev-
22 els of urgency; and

23 (BB) to provide release
24 recommendations to the Of-
25 fice of the Secretary of De-

(C) MEMBERSHIP.—

(ii) RESTRICTION.—The Commission
may not have as a member—

(D) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report on the results of the study required by subparagraph (B).

7 (b) MODIFICATION OF FOREIGN MILITARY SALES

8 PROCESSING.—

9 (1) DEADLINES.—

10 (A) RESPONSES.—

(i) LETTERS OF REQUEST FOR PRICING AND AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary of Defense shall ensure that an eligible foreign purchaser that has submitted a letter of request for pricing and availability data receives a response to the letter not later than 45 days after the date on which the letter is received by a United States security cooperation organization, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, or other implementing agency.

fense and the Secretary of State shall ensure that an eligible foreign purchaser that has submitted a letter of request for a letter of offer and acceptance receives a response—

(aa) in the case of a letter of request for a blanket-order letter of offer and acceptance, cooperative logistics supply support arrangements, or associated amendments and modifications, not later than 45 days after the date on which the letter of request is received by a United States security cooperation organization, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, or other implementing agency;

(bb) in the case of a letter of request for a defined-order letter of offer and acceptance or associated amendments and modifications, not later than 100 days after such date; and

1 (cc) in the case of a letter of
2 request for a defined-order letter
3 of offer and acceptance or associ-
4 ated amendments that involve ex-
5 tenuating factors, as approved by
6 the Director of the Defense Secu-
7 rity Cooperation Agency, not
8 later than 150 days after such
9 date.

18 (aa) in the case of an eligi-
19 ble foreign purchaser that is a
20 member of the national tech-
21 nology and industrial base—

22 (AA) in the case of a
23 letter of request for a de-
24 fined-order letter of offer
25 and acceptance, not later

1 than 65 days after the date
2 on which the letter of re-
3 quest is received by a United
4 States security cooperation
5 organization, the Defense
6 Security Cooperation Agen-
7 cy, or other implementing
8 agency; and

9 (BB) in the case of a
10 letter of request for a de-
11 fined-order letter of offer
12 and acceptance involving ex-
13 tenuating factors, as ap-
14 proved by the Director of
15 the Defense Security Co-
16 operation Agency, not later
17 than 90 days after such
18 date;

(bb) in the case of Israel,
Japan, the Republic of Korea,
New Zealand, or an eligible foreign purchaser that is a member
of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization or a major non-NATO
ally—

1 (AA) in the case of a
2 letter of request for a de-
3 fined-order letter of offer
4 and acceptance, not later
5 than 75 days after such
6 date; and

(BB) in the case of a letter of request for a defined-order letter of offer and acceptance involving extenuating factors, as approved by the Director of the Defense Security Co-operation Agency, not later than 100 days after such date; and

17 (cc) in the case of an eligible
18 foreign purchaser that is a major
19 defense partner or a major secu-
20 rity partner—

21 (AA) in the case of a
22 letter of request for a de-
23 fined-order letter of offer
24 and acceptance, not later

than 85 days after such date; and

(BB) in the case of a letter of request for a defined-order letter of offer and acceptance involving extenuating factors, as approved by the Director of the Defense Security Co-operation Agency, not later than 125 days.

23 (B) LICENSES FOR RELEASE OF SENSITIVE
24 TECHNOLOGY.—

(ii) APPROVAL.—In the case of a decision under clause (i) to approve such an application, the defense industry provider concerned may commence negotiations with the eligible foreign purchaser on the earliest date practicable following the issuance of such decision.

1 Committee on Armed Services and the
2 Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
3 House of Representatives written notice of
4 the decision, including the basis for the de-
5 nial.

6 (iv) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Noth-
7 ing in this subparagraph may be construed
8 to include, within the deadline set forth in
9 clause (i)—

10 (I) any response period under
11 subparagraph (A);
12 (II) any period of consultation
13 described in subparagraph (C); or
14 (III) a notification period under
15 section 36(c)(2) of the Arms Export
16 Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2776(c)(2)).

17 (C) DEPARTMENT OF STATE CONSULTA-
18 TION.—Any period of consultation between the
19 Secretary of State and Congress with respect to
20 a proposed foreign military sale may not—

21 (i) be longer than 20 days; or
22 (ii) be construed to include a notifica-
23 tion period under section 36(c)(2) of the
24 Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C.
25 2776(c)(2)).

1 (2) EXPANSION OF COUNTRY

2 PRIORITIZATION.—

(A) DX RATINGS.—With respect to foreign military sales to member countries of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, major non-NATO allies, major defense partners, and major security partners, the Secretary of Defense may assign a Defense Priorities and Allocations System order rating of DX (within the meaning of section 700.11 of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of the enactment of this section)).

13 (B) RAPID TECHNOLOGY RELEASE REVIEW
14 AND RAPID ACQUISITION.—The Secretary of
15 Defense shall establish a path within the for-
16 eign military sales process that prioritizes
17 Israel, Japan, the Republic of Korea, New Zea-
18 land, member countries of the North Atlantic
19 Treaty Organization, major non-NATO allies,
20 major defense partners, major security part-
21 ners, and eligible purchasers that are members
22 of the national technology and industrial base
23 for rapid technology release review and rapid
24 acquisition of United States defense articles
25 and defense services.

1 (3) LIMITATIONS ON PRICE MODIFICATIONS.—

2 (A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to the dol-
3 lar amount of an offer to sell or the sale of
4 United States defense articles or services devel-
5 oped by a military department and the Defense
6 Security Cooperation Agency for purposes of
7 the foreign military sales process documented in
8 a letter of offer to an eligible foreign purchaser
9 and submitted to the Secretary of State for re-
10 view, the Secretary of Defense may subse-
11 quently direct an increase of—

12 (i) not more than 20 percent of such
13 dollar amount to account for supply chain
14 disruptions, including the unavailability of
15 materials and inflation; and

16 (ii) not less than 20 percent of such
17 dollar amount, subject to review by the
18 Foreign Military Sales Cost Review Board.

19 (B) FOREIGN MILITARY SALES COST RE-
20 VIEW BOARD.—

21 (i) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary
22 of Defense shall establish within the De-
23 partment of Defense a board, to be known
24 as the “Foreign Military Sales Cost Review

(I) to review requests by the Director of the Defense Security Cooperation Agency for an increase in the dollar amount described in subparagraph (A) that is more than 20 percent of the dollar amount documented in a letter of offer and acceptance to an eligible foreign purchaser and submitted to the Secretary of State for review; and

23 (C) JUSTIFICATION FOR PRICE IN-
24 CREASE.—In the case of an increase in the dol-
25 lar amount described in subparagraph (A), the

1 Secretary of Defense shall provide to the eligible
2 foreign purchaser and the primary defense
3 industry provider concerned documentation justifying such increase.

5 (D) REPORT.—Beginning on December 15,
6 2025, and annually thereafter, the Under Secretary
7 of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment and the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy shall submit a report, and provide a briefing, to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on each request for a dollar amount increase reviewed by the Board during the fiscal year ending on September 30 of the applicable year.

16 (4) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

17 (A) BLANKET-ORDER LETTER OF OFFER
18 AND ACCEPTANCE.—The term “blanket-order letter of offer and acceptance” means an agreement between an eligible foreign purchaser and the United States Government for a specific category of items or services (including training) that—

24 (i) does not include a definitive listing
25 of items or quantities; and

(B) COOPERATIVE LOGISTICS SUPPLY SUPPORT ARRANGEMENT.—The term “cooperative logistics supply support arrangement” means a military logistics support arrangement designed to provide responsive and continuous supply support at the depot level for United States-made military materiel possessed by foreign countries or international organizations.

12 (C) DEFINED-ORDER LETTER OF OFFER
13 AND ACCEPTANCE.—The term “defined-order
14 letter of offer and acceptance” means a foreign
15 military sales case characterized by an order for
16 a specific defense article or service that is sepa-
17 rately identified as a line item on a letter of
18 offer and acceptance.

24 (i) preparing a letter of offer and ac-
25 ceptance;

(ii) implementing a foreign military sales case; and

(II) was accepted by an eligible foreign purchaser.

(E) LETTER OF REQUEST.—The term “letter of request”—

13 (i) means a written document—

(I) submitted to a United States security cooperation organization, the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, or an implementing agency by an eligible foreign purchaser for the purpose of requesting to purchase or otherwise obtain a United States defense article or defense service through the foreign military sales process; and

23 (II) that contains all relevant in-
24 formation in such form as may be re-

quired by the Secretary of Defense;

and

(ii) includes—

(I) a formal letter;

(II) an email;

(III) signed meeting minutes

from a recognized official of the government of an eligible foreign purchaser; and

(IV) any other form of written document, as determined by the Secretary of Defense or the Director of Defense Security Cooperation Agency.

(F) MAJOR DEFENSE PARTNER.—The term “major defense partner” means—

(i) India; and

(ii) any other country as designated

by the Secretary of Defense.

(G) MAJOR NON-NATO ALLY.—The term “major non-NATO ally”—

(i) has the meaning given the term in section 644 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2403)); and

(H) MAJOR SECURITY PARTNER.—The term “major security partner” means—

7 (i) the United Arab Emirates;

8 (ii) Bahrain;

9 (iii) Saudi Arabia; and

10 (iv) any other country, as designated
11 by the Secretary of Defense, in consulta-
12 tion with the Secretary of State and the
13 Director of National Intelligence.

19 (c) MODIFICATION OF REPORTING REQUIRE-
20 MENTS.—Section 36 of the Arms Export Control Act (22
21 U.S.C. 2776) is amended—

22 (1) in subsection (b)—

23 (A) in paragraph (1)—

24 (i) in the matter preceding subparagraph
25 graph (A), by striking “any letter of offer”

1 and all that follows through “\$14,000,000
2 or more” and inserting “any letter of offer
3 to sell any defense articles or services
4 under this Act for \$170,000,000 or more,
5 any design and construction services for
6 \$681,000,000 or more, or any major de-
7 fense equipment for \$47,000,000 or
8 more”; and

9 (ii) in the undesignated matter at the
10 end, in the second sentence, by striking
11 “or New Zealand” and inserting “New
12 Zealand, any major non-NATO ally (as de-
13 fined in section 644 of the Foreign Assist-
14 ance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2403)), or
15 any major defense partner, or major secu-
16 rity partner”;

17 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “or New
18 Zealand” and inserting “New Zealand, any
19 major non-NATO ally, or any major defense
20 partner or major security partner”; and

21 (C) in paragraph (6), in the matter pre-
22 ceding subparagraph (A)—

23 (i) by striking “or New Zealand” and
24 inserting “New Zealand, a major non-

1 NATO ally, or a major defense partner or
2 major security partner”;

3 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking
4 “\$25,000,000” and inserting
5 “\$85,000,000”;

6 (iii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
7 “\$100,000,000” and inserting
8 “\$340,000,000”; and

9 (iv) in subparagraph (C), by striking
10 “\$300,000,000” and inserting
11 “\$1,000,000,000”;

12 (2) in subsection (c)—

13 (A) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “or
14 New Zealand” and inserting “New Zealand,
15 any major non-NATO ally, or any major de-
16 fense partner or major security partner”;

17 (B) in paragraph (5), by striking “or New
18 Zealand” and inserting “New Zealand, a major
19 non-NATO ally, or a major defense partner or
20 major security partner”; and

21 (C) by adding at the end the following new
22 paragraph:

23 “(7) A sale of major defense equipment, defense arti-
24 cles, or defense services that is the subject of an applica-
25 tion for which notification has been provided under this

1 subsection, including such a sale for which the number of
2 such equipment, articles, or services is increased, shall not
3 require subsequent notification under this subsection un-
4 less the dollar amount of the offer to sell or the sale ex-
5 ceeds 150 percent of the dollar amount of the offer to sell
6 or the sale set forth in the notification provided.”;

11 (4) by adding at the end the following new sub-
12 section:

13 "(j) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) MAJOR DEFENSE PARTNER.—The term
‘major defense partner’ means—

16 “(A) India; and

17 “(B) any other country, as designated by
18 the Secretary of Defense.

19 “(2) MAJOR NON-NATO ALLY.—The term
20 ‘major non-NATO ally’—

21 “(A) has the meaning given the term in
22 section 644 of the Foreign Assistance Act of
23 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2403)); and

24 “(B) includes Taiwan, as required by sec-
25 tion 1206 of the Security Assistance Act of

1 2002 (Public Law 107–228; 22U.S.C. 2321k
2 note).

3 “(3) MAJOR SECURITY PARTNER.—The term
4 ‘major security partner’ means—

5 “(A) the United Arab Emirates;
6 “(B) Bahrain;
7 “(C) Saudi Arabia; and
8 “(D) any other country, as designated by
9 the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with
10 the Secretary of State and the Director of Na-
11 tional Intelligence.”.

12 (d) ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR TECH-
13 NOLOGY COOPERATION AND SECURITY REVIEW.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 138 of title 10,
15 United States Code, is amended—

16 (A) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “19”
17 and inserting “20”; and

18 (B) in subsection (b), by adding at the end
19 the following new paragraph:

20 “(9) One of the Assistant Secretaries is the Assist-
21 ance Secretary of Defense for Technology Cooperation and
22 Security Review. The Assistant Secretary shall serve
23 under the authority, direction, and control of the Under
24 Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment.
25 The principal duty of the Assistant Secretary shall be the

1 overall supervision of policy and processes of the Depart-
2 ment of Defense for technology cooperation and security
3 review in the context of foreign military sales and direct
4 commercial sales.”.

5 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 5315
6 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by strik-
7 ing “Assistant Secretaries of Defense (19)” and in-
8 serting “Assistant Secretaries of Defense (20)”.

9 (e) SPECIAL DEFENSE ACQUISITION FUND.—Section
10 51 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2795) is
11 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
12 section:

13 “(d) Decisions with respect to the use of a portion
14 of the Fund for the acquisition of defense articles and de-
15 fense services in anticipation of their transfer pursuant
16 to this Act, the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C.
17 2151 et seq.), or as otherwise authorized by law, to eligible
18 foreign countries and international organizations shall be
19 made independently of acquisition decisions relating to the
20 requirements of the United States Armed Forces.”.

21 (f) EXPEDITED DELIVERIES TO PRIORITY FOREIGN
22 PURCHASERS.—

23 (1) ACQUISITION STRATEGIES.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to a for-
25 eign country or capability identified in guidance

1 issued under subsection (a)(2) as a regional or
2 country-level foreign defense capability-building
3 priority, the Secretary of Defense shall establish
4 a requirement that, in developing letters of
5 offer and acceptance, the acquisition program
6 office of each military department shall develop,
7 at program inception—

- 8 (i) an acquisition strategy that docu-
9 ments the standard acquisition path; and
10 (ii) an acquisition strategy that docu-
11 ments the fastest acquisition path.

10 (2) INPUT FROM ELIGIBLE FOREIGN PUR-
11 CHASER.—

20 (C) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE POLICY.—

1 agreements with manufacturers of Govern-
2 ment-furnished equipment so that produc-
3 tion on long-lead Government-furnished
4 equipment may begin before the execution
5 of a signed commercial contract or the
6 issuance of a letter of offer and accept-
7 ance.

8 (ii) ELEMENTS.—The policies re-
9 quired by clause (i) shall require that—

10 (I) United States companies
11 shall—

12 (aa) before entering into an
13 agreement under this paragraph,
14 obtain the concurrence or ap-
15 proval of the head of the military
16 department concerned to do so;
17 and

18 (bb) be responsible for—

19 (AA) negotiating di-
20 rectly with the manufacturer
21 of Government-furnished
22 equipment; and

23 (BB) providing any
24 payment to such manufac-
25 turer; and

13 (g) MODIFICATION OF AUTHORITY FOR SALES TO
14 UNITED STATES COMPANIES FOR INCORPORATION INTO
15 END ITEMS.—Section 30(a)(2) of the Arms Export Con-
16 trol Act (22 U.S.C. 2770(a)(2)) is amended by inserting
17 “or for the purpose of providing defense capabilities
18 through provision of a service” after “to be sold by such
19 a company”.

20 (h) TREATMENT OF NATIONAL TECHNOLOGY AND
21 INDUSTRIAL BASE AS DOMESTIC SOURCE UNDER DE-
22 FENSE PRODUCTION ACT OF 1950.—Section 702(7)(A) of
23 the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C.
24 4552(7)(A)) is amended by striking “the United States
25 or Canada” and inserting “the United States, any other

1 country, the persons or organizations within the national
2 technology and industrial base, or Japan".

3 (i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) DEFENSE ACQUISITION WORKFORCE.—The
5 term "defense acquisition workforce" means the De-
6 partment of Defense acquisition workforce described
7 in chapter 87 of title 10, United States Code.

8 (2) SECURITY COOPERATION WORKFORCE.—
9 The term "security cooperation workforce" has the
10 meaning given the term in section 384 of title 10,
11 United States Code.

