

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2689

To provide for the appointment of a Special Envoy for Belarus.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 27, 2023

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

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## A BILL

To provide for the appointment of a Special Envoy for Belarus.

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. SPECIAL ENVOY FOR BELARUS.**

4 (a) SPECIAL ENVOY.—The President shall appoint a  
5 Special Envoy for Belarus within the Department of State  
6 (referred to in this section as the “Special Envoy”).

7 (b) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Special Envoy—

8 (1) should be a person of recognized distinction  
9 in the field of European security, geopolitics, democ-  
10 racy, and human rights; and

11 (2) may be a career foreign service officer.

1 (c) CENTRAL OBJECTIVE.—The central objective of  
2 the Special Envoy is to coordinate and promote efforts—

3 (1) to improve respect for the fundamental  
4 human rights of the people of Belarus;

5 (2) to sustain focus on the national security im-  
6 plications, for the United States, of Belarus’s polit-  
7 ical and military alignment; and

8 (3) to respond to the political, economic, and  
9 security impacts of events in Belarus on neighboring  
10 countries and the wider region.

11 (d) DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Special  
12 Envoy shall—

13 (1) engage in discussions with Belarusian offi-  
14 cials regarding human rights and political, economic,  
15 and security issues in Belarus;

16 (2) support international efforts to promote  
17 human rights and political freedoms in Belarus, in-  
18 cluding coordination and dialogue between the  
19 United States and the United Nations, the Organi-  
20 zation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the  
21 European Union, Belarus, and the other countries in  
22 Eastern Europe;

23 (3) consult with nongovernmental organizations  
24 that have attempted to address human rights and  
25 political and economic instability in Belarus;

1           (4) make recommendations regarding the fund-  
2           ing of activities promoting human rights, democracy,  
3           the rule of law, and the development of a market  
4           economy in Belarus;

5           (5) review strategies for improving protection of  
6           human rights in Belarus, including technical train-  
7           ing and exchange programs;

8           (6) develop an action plan for holding to ac-  
9           count the perpetrators of the human rights viola-  
10          tions documented in the United Nations High Com-  
11          missioner for Human Rights report on the situation  
12          of human rights in Belarus in the run-up to the  
13          2020 presidential election and its aftermath (Human  
14          Rights Council Resolution 49/36);

15          (7) engage with member countries of the North  
16          Atlantic Treaty Organization, the Organization for  
17          Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the Euro-  
18          pean Union with respect to the implications of  
19          Belarus's political and security alignment for trans-  
20          atlantic security; and

21          (8) to work within the Department of State and  
22          among partnering countries to sustain focus on the  
23          political situation in Belarus.

24          (e) ROLE.—The position of Special Envoy—

25                (1) shall be a full-time position;

1           (2) may not be combined with any other posi-  
2           tion within the Department of State;

3           (3) shall only exist for the period during which  
4           United States diplomatic operations in Belarus at  
5           the United States Embassy in Minsk have been sus-  
6           pended; and

7           (4) shall oversee the operations and personnel  
8           of the Belarus Affairs Unit of the Department of  
9           State.

10          (f) REPORT ON ACTIVITIES.—Not later than 180  
11         days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annu-  
12         ally thereafter for the following 5 years, the Secretary of  
13         State, in consultation with the Special Envoy, shall submit  
14         to the appropriate congressional committees a report that  
15         describes the activities undertaken pursuant to subsection  
16         (d) during the reporting period.

17          (g) TERMINATION.—The position of Special Envoy  
18         for Belarus Affairs and the authorities provided by this  
19         section shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after  
20         the date of the enactment of this Act.

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