

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2725

To authorize the establishment of the US-ASEAN Center to support United States economic and cultural engagement with Southeast Asia.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 5, 2023

Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. ROMNEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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## A BILL

To authorize the establishment of the US-ASEAN Center to support United States economic and cultural engagement with Southeast Asia.

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. US-ASEAN CENTER.**

4 (a) **DEFINED TERM.**—In this Act, the term  
5 “ASEAN” means the Association of Southeast Asian Na-  
6 tions.

7 (b) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary of State is au-  
8 thorized to enter into a public-private partnership for the  
9 purposes of establishing a US-ASEAN Center in the

1 United States to support United States economic and cul-  
2 tural engagement with Southeast Asia.

3 (c) FUNCTIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provi-  
4 sion of law, the US-ASEAN Center established pursuant  
5 to subsection (b) may—

6 (1) provide grants for research to support and  
7 elevate the importance of the US-ASEAN partner-  
8 ship;

9 (2) facilitate activities to strengthen US-  
10 ASEAN trade and investment;

11 (3) expand economic and technological relation-  
12 ships between ASEAN countries and the United  
13 States into new areas of cooperation;

14 (4) provide training to United States citizens  
15 and citizens of ASEAN countries that improve peo-  
16 ple-to-people ties;

17 (5) develop educational programs to increase  
18 awareness for the United States and ASEAN coun-  
19 tries on the importance of relations between the  
20 United States and ASEAN countries; and

21 (6) carry out other activities the Secretary of  
22 State considers necessary to strengthen ties between  
23 the United States and ASEAN countries and achieve  
24 the objectives of the US-ASEAN Center.

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