

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2967

To establish an Assistant Secretary of State for Arctic Affairs.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 7, 2021

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. KING, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Ms. HASSAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To establish an Assistant Secretary of State for Arctic Affairs.

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 “Arctic Diplomacy Act
5 of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ARCTIC AF-**
7 **FAIRS.**

8 Section 1(c) of the State Department Basic Authori-
9 ties Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a(c)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “not more
2 than 24 Assistant Secretaries of State” and insert-
3 ing “not more than 25 Assistant Secretaries of
4 State”;

5 (2) by redesignating paragraph (4) as para-
6 graph (5); and

7 (3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-
8 lowing new paragraph:

9 “(4) ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
10 ARCTIC AFFAIRS.—

11 “(A) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to
12 be in the Department of State an Assistant
13 Secretary of State for Arctic Affairs, who shall
14 be responsible to the Secretary of State and the
15 Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs
16 for all matters, programs, and related activities
17 pertaining to the Arctic region in the conduct
18 of foreign policy by the Department, including,
19 as appropriate, leading the coordination of pro-
20 grams carried out by United States Government
21 agencies abroad, and such other related duties
22 as the Secretary may from time to time des-
23 ignate.

24 “(B) AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY.—The
25 Assistant Secretary of State for Arctic Affairs

1 shall maintain continuous observation and co-
2 ordination of all matters pertaining to energy,
3 environment, trade, infrastructure development
4 and maintenance, law enforcement, and polit-
5 ical-military affairs in the conduct of foreign
6 policy in the Arctic, including programs carried
7 out by other United States Government agen-
8 cies when such programs pertain to the fol-
9 lowing matters:

10 “(i) National security.

11 “(ii) Strengthening cooperation
12 among Arctic countries.

13 “(iii) The promotion of responsible
14 natural resource management and eco-
15 nomic development.

16 “(iv) Protecting the Arctic environ-
17 ment and conserving its biological re-
18 sources.

19 “(v) Arctic indigenous peoples, includ-
20 ing by involving them in decisions that af-
21 fect them.

22 “(vi) Scientific monitoring and re-
23 search.

24 “(C) ADDITIONAL DUTIES.—In addition to
25 the responsibilities specified in subparagraph

1 (B), the Assistant Secretary for Arctic Affairs
2 shall also carry out such other relevant duties
3 as the Secretary may assign.

4 “(D) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

5 “(i) ARCTIC REGION.—The term ‘Arctic region’ means—
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7 “(I) the geographic region north
8 of the 66.56083 parallel latitude
9 north of the equator;

10 “(II) all the United States terri-
11 tory north and west of the boundary
12 formed by the Porcupine, Yukon, and
13 Kuskokwim Rivers;

14 “(III) all contiguous seas, includ-
15 ing the Arctic Ocean and the Beau-
16 fort, Bering, and Chukchi Seas; and

17 “(IV) the Aleutian Chain.

18 “(ii) ARCTIC COUNTRIES.—The term
19 ‘Arctic Countries’ means the permanent
20 members of the Arctic Council, namely the
21 United States, Canada, Denmark, Iceland,
22 Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Russia.”.

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