

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4202

To require the Department of State to create and implement a process
for better supporting new diplomatic missions.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 23, 2024

Mr. RISCH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred
to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To require the Department of State to create and implement
a process for better supporting new diplomatic missions.

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 “Embassy in a Box Act
5 of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSE.**

7 The purpose of this Act is to equip the Department
8 of State with the tools necessary to stand up new diplo-
9 matic missions efficiently and effectively in advance of
10 United States strategic interests around the world. An

1 “embassy in a box” approach establishes expedited proc-
2 esses to provide the physical resources new diplomatic mis-
3 sions needed, particularly in austere locations.

4 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress makes the following findings:

6 (1) Increasing the United States global diplo-
7 matic footprint is imperative to advance United
8 States’ national security interests, particularly in the
9 face of a massive diplomatic expansion of the Peo-
10 ple’s Republic of China.

11 (2) Adding more diplomatic missions, often in
12 small island nations in the Pacific and Indian
13 Oceans as well as the Caribbean Sea, will lay down
14 the diplomatic infrastructure needed to compete with
15 the People’s Republic of China.

16 (3) Diplomatic missions should be resourced
17 and equipped for success as soon as, or even before,
18 they open in order to allow diplomats to focus on ad-
19 vancing United States national interests in-country,
20 instead of navigating bureaucratic processes.

21 (4) Successfully opening new missions is not
22 simply a choice between expediency and quality. The
23 United States can move more swiftly to open new
24 missions while still putting United States diplomats
25 in a positions to get to work immediately.

1 (5) To avoid this binary, the Department of
2 State has to reduce the bureaucratic obstacles inhib-
3 iting current and future diplomats at new missions,
4 while positively identifying ways that the Depart-
5 ment can best support them.

6 **SEC. 4. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the
8 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State
9 shall submit to appropriate congressional committees a re-
10 port on how the Department of State is creating an “em-
11 bassy in a box” concept to provide new missions the need-
12 ed resources and authorities to successfully and quickly
13 stand up and operate a mission from the moment United
14 States personnel arrive, or even before the opening of a
15 new mission, to immediately begin advancing United
16 States national interests.

17 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under sub-
18 section (a) shall include—

19 (1) a list of authorities and processes related to
20 the opening of new missions;

21 (2) a list of authorities and processes related to
22 the opening of new missions that the Department
23 has waived or moved away from in order to expedi-
24 ently stand up new missions, particularly in small is-
25 land nations;

1 (3) a list of equipment that should be provided
2 to each new mission, the approval of which will be
3 handled prior to or shortly after the opening of the
4 mission and will not be the responsibility of the mis-
5 sion, including—

6 (A) an authorization of one vehicle per De-
7 partment of State direct hire; or

8 (B) enough vehicles in motor pool to ade-
9 quately serve fully all Department of State di-
10 rect hires;

11 (4) required support staff who are assigned to
12 a new mission, including those who may not be resi-
13 dent at a new mission;

14 (5) processes or traditional requirements for an
15 embassy that are being eliminated or reimaged;

16 (6) the cost of paying a 20-percent differential
17 rate specifically for United States direct hires who
18 are accredited to any new United States mission
19 with a hardship differential of 20 percent or more
20 for the first ten years of its existence; and

21 (7) any other authorities or processes that may
22 be required to successfully and quickly stand up a
23 new United States mission, including any new au-
24 thorities the Department may need.

1 **SEC. 5. DELEGATING AUTHORITIES TO SENIOR OFFICIAL**
2 **TO LEAD NEW EMBASSY EXPANSION.**

3 (a) DELEGATION.—The Secretary of State and the
4 Under Secretary of State for Management shall delegate
5 all needed authorities to expedite the creation of new mis-
6 sions abroad, as well as their continued management and
7 operational support, to the Director of the Office of Man-
8 agement Strategy and Solutions.

9 (b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Director of the Office
10 of Management Strategy and Solutions shall be respon-
11 sible for—

12 (1) expediting the resourcing of new diplomatic
13 missions by temporarily waiving or reducing proc-
14 esses needed to open new missions, as conditions
15 within the host country may require;

16 (2) when necessary, quickly adjudicating within
17 the Department any obstacles that arise during the
18 planning and execution phases of the establishment
19 of a new mission;

20 (3) ensuring new missions receive the manage-
21 ment and operational support needed so that per-
22 sonnel can focus on diplomacy and not administra-
23 tive challenges; and

24 (4) ensuring that the authorities provided in the
25 Secure Embassy Construction and Counterterrorism
26 Act of 1999 (title VI of division A of appendix G of

1 Public Law 106–113), as amended by the the Secure
2 Embassy Construction and Counterterrorism Act of
3 2022 (section 9301 of Public Law 117–263; 136
4 Stat. 3879), are fully utilized in the planning for all
5 new United States missions.

6 **SEC. 6. IMPLEMENTING THE SECURE EMBASSY CONSTRUC-**
7 **TION AND COUNTERTERRORISM ACT OF 2022.**

8 Not later than 60 days after the date of the enact-
9 ment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

10 (1) promulgate new policies and procedures
11 consistent with the Secure Embassy Construction
12 and Counterterrorism Act of 1999 (title VI of divi-
13 sion A of appendix G of Public Law 106–113), as
14 amended by the the Secure Embassy Construction
15 and Counterterrorism Act of 2022 (section 9301 of
16 Public Law 117–263; 136 Stat. 3879); and

17 (2) submit a report to the appropriate congres-
18 sional committees detailing such policies and proce-
19 dures and the impact of implementation on overseas
20 facilities and out-year embassy construction projects.

21 **SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.**

22 In this Act:

23 (1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-**
24 **TEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional com-
25 mittees” means—

1 (A) the Committee on Foreign Relations
2 and the Committee on Appropriations of the
3 Senate; and

4 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations
5 and the Committee on Appropriations of the
6 House of Representatives.

7 (2) **NEW DIPLOMATIC MISSION.**—The term
8 “new diplomatic mission” means any bilateral diplo-
9 matic mission opened since January 1, 2020, in a
10 country where there had not been a bilateral diplo-
11 matic mission since the date that is 20 years before
12 the date of the enactment of this Act.

13 **SEC. 8. SUNSET.**

14 The authorities and requirements of this Act shall
15 terminate ten years after the date of the enactment of this
16 Act.

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