

Calendar No. 48118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION**S. 682**

To provide for the treatment of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as an international organization for purposes of the International Organizations Immunities Act, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 7, 2023

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. ROMNEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

MAY 4, 2023

Reported by Mr. MENENDEZ, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

A BILL

To provide for the treatment of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as an international organization for purposes of the International Organizations Immunities Act, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Providing Appropriate
3 Recognition and Treatment Needed to Enhance Relations
4 with ASEAN Act” or the “PARTNER with ASEAN Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY ON DEEPENING COOPERA-**
6 **TION WITH ASEAN.**

7 It is the policy of the United States—

8 (1) to reaffirm the United States-ASEAN Com-
9 prehensive Strategic Partnership, established in
10 2022 following 45 years of Dialogue Partnership;

11 (2) to enhance United States-ASEAN coopera-
12 tion in support of an open, transparent, resilient, in-
13 clusive and rules-based regional architecture in the
14 Indo-Pacific;

15 (3) to support regular, high-level United States
16 official engagement with ASEAN, including the par-
17 ticipation in the annual ASEAN Summit held each
18 year;

19 (4) to enhance cooperation with ASEAN mem-
20 ber states as well as with the institution of ASEAN
21 and the ASEAN Secretariat, including through the
22 United States Mission to ASEAN, led by the United
23 States Ambassador to ASEAN; and

24 (5) to welcome the decision in-principle by
25 ASEAN to admit Timor-Leste to be ASEAN’s 11th
26 member state and to encourage United States sup-

1 port to Timor-Leste in its capacity as an official
2 ASEAN observer.

3 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF**
4 **AN ASEAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED**
5 **STATES.**

6 It is the sense of Congress that it is in the United
7 States interest to encourage the establishment, at the ear-
8 liest opportunity, of an ASEAN delegation to the United
9 States, to enhance cooperation between ASEAN and the
10 United States at all levels.

11 **SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITIES TO THE**
12 **ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NA-**
13 **TIONS.**

14 The provisions of the International Organizations Im-
15 munities Act (22 U.S.C. 288 et seq.) may be extended to
16 the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in the same
17 manner, to the same extent, and subject to the same con-
18 ditions as such provisions may be extended to a public
19 international organization in which the United States par-
20 ticipates pursuant to any treaty or under the authority
21 of any Act of Congress authorizing such participation or
22 making an appropriation for such participation.

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 *This Act may be cited as the “Providing Appropriate*
3 *Recognition and Treatment Needed to Enhance Relations*
4 *with ASEAN Act” or the “PARTNER with ASEAN Act”.*

5 **SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY ON DEEPENING COOPERA-**
6 **TION WITH ASEAN.**

7 *It is the policy of the United States—*

8 *(1) to reaffirm the United States-ASEAN Com-*
9 *prehensive Strategic Partnership, established in 2022*
10 *following 45 years of Dialogue Partnership;*

11 *(2) to enhance United States-ASEAN coopera-*
12 *tion in support of an open, transparent, resilient, in-*
13 *clusive and rules-based regional architecture in the*
14 *Indo-Pacific;*

15 *(3) to support regular, high-level United States*
16 *official engagement with ASEAN, including the par-*
17 *ticipation in the annual ASEAN Summit held each*
18 *year;*

19 *(4) to enhance cooperation with ASEAN member*
20 *states, as appropriate, as well as with the institution*
21 *of ASEAN and the ASEAN Secretariat, including*
22 *through the United States Mission to ASEAN, led by*
23 *the United States Ambassador to ASEAN; and*

24 *(5) to welcome the decision in-principle by*
25 *ASEAN to admit Timor-Leste to be ASEAN’s 11th*
26 *member state and to encourage United States support*

1 *to Timor-Leste in its capacity as an official ASEAN*
2 *observer.*

3 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF**
4 **AN ASEAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED**
5 **STATES.**

6 *It is the sense of Congress that—*

7 *(1) it is in the United States interest to encour-*
8 *age the establishment, at the earliest opportunity, of*
9 *an ASEAN delegation to the United States, to en-*
10 *hance cooperation between ASEAN and the United*
11 *States at all levels; and*

12 *(2) the establishment of an ASEAN center in the*
13 *United States would support United States economic*
14 *and cultural engagement with Southeast Asia.*

15 **SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITIES TO THE**
16 **ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NA-**
17 **TIONS.**

18 *The provisions of the International Organizations Im-*
19 *munities Act (22 U.S.C. 288 et seq.) may be extended to*
20 *the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in the same*
21 *manner, to the same extent, and subject to the same condi-*
22 *tions as such provisions may be extended to a public inter-*
23 *national organization in which the United States partici-*
24 *pates pursuant to any treaty or under the authority of any*

- 1 *Act of Congress authorizing such participation or making*
- 2 *an appropriation for such participation.*

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