

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9299

To make certain improvements relating to the coordination of efforts to promote internet freedom and access to information in Iran, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 2, 2024

Mr. SWALWELL (for himself, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. FOXX, Mr. PETERS, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. LIEU, Mr. MILLS, Mr. LEVIN, Mrs. BICE, and Mr. HIMES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To make certain improvements relating to the coordination of efforts to promote internet freedom and access to information in Iran, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Internet Reach and
5 Access Now Act” or “IRAN Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPROVED COORDINATION OF EFFORTS TO PRO-**
2 **MOTE INTERNET FREEDOM AND ACCESS TO**
3 **INFORMATION IN IRAN.**

4 (a) DUTIES.—The Secretary of State shall be the
5 Federal official with primary responsible for the following
6 duties:

7 (1) Promoting widespread internet freedom in
8 Iran and access to information in Iran.

9 (2) Coordinating any efforts carried out by the
10 heads of other Federal departments and agencies re-
11 lating to the promotion of widespread internet free-
12 dom in Iran and access to information in Iran.

13 (3) Serving as the principal official within the
14 Federal Government responsible for coordinating up-
15 dates to the strategy required under section 414 of
16 the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights
17 Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8754) and implementing
18 such strategy and any updates thereto.

19 (b) UPDATES TO COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY TO
20 PROMOTE INTERNET FREEDOM AND ACCESS TO INFOR-
21 MATION IN IRAN.—

22 (1) UPDATES.—Section 414 of the Iran Threat
23 Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22
24 U.S.C. 8754) is amended—

1 (A) by striking “Not later than” and in-
2 serting “(A) INITIAL STRATEGY.—Not later
3 than”;

4 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (11) and
5 (12) as paragraphs (14) and (15), respectively;

6 (C) by inserting after paragraph (10) the
7 following new paragraphs:

8 “(11) evaluate the use of virtual private net-
9 works and direct-to-cell satellite technologies by civil
10 society and human rights activists in Iran and de-
11 velop strategies for increasing the accessibility of
12 such networks and technologies;

13 “(12) develop guidance for the Department of
14 the Treasury to ensure that enforcement of sanc-
15 tions does not prevent companies from providing to
16 Iranian civilians the technology and other tools nec-
17 essary to access the open internet;

18 “(13) assess the ability of the Iranian regime to
19 cut off all access to the internet and develop a strat-
20 egy to circumvent internet blackouts for Iranian civil
21 society;”; and

22 (D) by adding at the end the following new
23 subsection:

24 “(b) UPDATES.—The Secretary of State, in consulta-
25 tion with the Secretary of Treasury, the Secretary of Com-

merce, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and the heads of the elements of the intelligence community (as such term is defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003)), shall review the strategy under subsection (a) on an ongoing basis and update the strategy as appropriate, taking into account the results of such review.”.

(2) SUBMISSION OF FIRST UPDATES.—

(A) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment, the Secretary of State shall—

(i) review and update the strategy pursuant to section 414(b) of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8754), as amended by paragraph (1); and

(ii) submit such updated strategy to the appropriate congressional committees.

(B) FORM.—The strategy under subparagraph (A) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means the following:

1 (1) The Committee on Foreign Affairs, the
2 Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Perma-
3 nent Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Com-
4 mittee on Appropriations of the House of Represent-
5 atives.

6 (2) The Committee on Foreign Relations, the
7 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-
8 tation, the Select Committee on Intelligence, and the
9 Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

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