

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

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

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 _____

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

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

3 It is the policy of the United States—

4 (1) to reaffirm the United States-ASEAN Com-
5 prehensive Strategic Partnership, established in
6 2022 following 45 years of Dialogue Partnership;

7 (2) to enhance United States-ASEAN coopera-
8 tion in support of an open, transparent, resilient, in-
9 clusive and rules-based regional architecture in the
10 Indo-Pacific;

11 (3) to support regular, high-level United States
12 official engagement with ASEAN, including the par-
13 ticipation in the annual ASEAN Summit held each
14 year;

15 (4) to enhance cooperation with ASEAN mem-
16 ber states as well as with the institution of ASEAN
17 and the ASEAN Secretariat, including through the
18 United States Mission to ASEAN, led by the United
19 States Ambassador to ASEAN; and

20 (5) to welcome the decision in-principle by
21 ASEAN to admit Timor-Leste to be ASEAN's 11th
22 member state and to encourage United States sup-
23 port to Timor-Leste in its capacity as an official
24 ASEAN observer.

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

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

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

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