

Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014

Section-By-Section

Section 1 – Short Title and Table of Contents

This section designates the bill as the “Ukraine Freedom Support Act of 2014” and provides a table of contents.

Section 2 – Definitions

This section provides definitions of terms relevant to the bill.

Section 3 – Statement of Policy Regarding Ukraine

This section states that the policy of the United States is to further assist Ukraine in restoring its sovereignty and territorial integrity and to deter Russia from further destabilizing and invading countries in the region. In part, this policy will be carried out through the provision of military capabilities to the Ukrainian government.

Section 4 – Sanctions Relating to the Defense and Energy Sectors of Russia

This section requires the president to impose a minimum of three types of sanctions on Rosoboronexport and other Russian defense firms that contribute to instability in Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, and Syria. It also requires sanctions on individuals and entities worldwide that assist or otherwise support such firms and activities.

This section also requires the president to impose a minimum of three types of sanctions on companies worldwide that make significant investments in certain types of unconventional Russian crude oil energy projects. The president is also authorized to apply additional licensing requirements or other restrictions on the export of items used in Russia’s energy sector.

This section requires the president to prohibit U.S. persons from investing in or purchasing significant amounts of Gazprom equity or debt and to impose one additional sanction on Gazprom if he determines that that the company is withholding significant amounts of natural gas from NATO member-states or countries such as Ukraine, Moldova, or Georgia.

All sanctions are subject to a presidential national security waiver.

Section 5 – Sanctions on Russian and other Foreign Financial Institutions

This section authorizes the president to prohibit or restrict foreign financial institutions’ dealings with the United States banking system if he determines they have engaged in significant sanctionable transactions related to Russia’s defense and energy sectors, or significant transactions on behalf of any Russian individual or entity that has been sanctioned in connection with the crisis in Ukraine.

Section 6 – Codification of Executive Orders Addressing the Ukraine Crisis

This section codifies sanctions Executive Orders addressing the crisis in Ukraine.

Section 7 – Major Non-NATO Ally Status

This section designates Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia as major non-NATO allies.

Section 8 – Increased Military Assistance for Ukraine

This section authorizes the president to provide defense articles, defense services, and military training to the Ukrainian government for the purpose of countering offensive weapons and reestablishing the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, including anti-tank and anti-armor weapons; crew served weapons and ammunition; counter-artillery radars to identify and target artillery batteries; fire control, range finder, optical and guidance and control equipment; tactical surveillance drones, and secure command and communications equipment. It authorizes \$350 million in fiscal year 2015 to carry out these activities. The president is required to provide a report to Congress detailing the military assistance to be provided to Ukraine.

Section 9 – Expanded Non-Military Assistance for Ukraine

This section requires the administration to outline a plan for how the United States, other governments, and international organizations will help Ukraine in protecting and assisting persons internally displaced because of the fighting in Ukraine.

This section further requires the administration to work with Ukrainian government to develop a short-term emergency energy assistance plan that will help Ukraine address a potential fuel and electricity shortage in 2014-15 and authorizes \$50 million in fiscal year 2015 for this purpose. The administration is also required to work with the Ukrainian government to develop a longer term plan that will improve Ukraine's energy security. It authorizes \$50 million in total over fiscal years 2015 through 2017 for this purpose.

This section also encourages the president to assist entities in the Ukrainian defense sector to reorient exports away from customers in Russia and to find appropriate alternative markets for their products.

Finally, this section requires the president to submit a strategy to Congress that outlines U.S. efforts to strengthen Ukrainian civil society, support independent media, reduce corruption, and increase election-monitoring capacity and authorizes \$20 million for fiscal year 2015 in support of these activities. Any assistance provided pursuant to this subsection must be conducted in as transparent of a manner as possible and briefed to Congress upon request.

Section 10 – Expanded Broadcasting in Countries of the Former Soviet Union

This section authorizes \$10 million for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2017 to immediately and substantially increase efforts to counter Russian propaganda in the countries of the former Soviet Union, and includes a requirement that the Broadcasting Board of Governors and Voice of America immediately prioritize Russian-language broadcasting into Ukraine, Moldova, and Georgia, as well as to prioritize near-term increases in such broadcasting in other countries of the former Soviet Union, including Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia and to increase broadcasting in other critical languages, including Ukrainian and Romanian.

Section 11 – Support for Russian Civil Society

This section requires the Secretary of State to improve democratic governance, rule of law, and anti-corruption efforts in the Russian Federation, including strengthening democratic institutions, supporting civil society organizations, and expanding uncensored access to independent media. Any assistance provided pursuant to this section must be conducted in as transparent of a manner as possible and briefed to Congress upon request. It authorizes \$20 million for each of FY 2015 – 2017 for these purposes. The president is required to submit a strategy to Congress to carry out these activities.

Section 12 – Report on Russian INF Treaty Non-Compliance

This section states Congress's findings that the Russian Federation is in violation of its obligations under the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) and that this behavior poses a threat to the United States and its allies. It expresses Congress's sense that the President should hold the Russian Federation accountable for its behavior and demand that the Russian Federation eliminate the military systems that constitute a violation of its obligations the INF treaty.

This section requires the president to submit a report to Congress every 90 days that describes the president's efforts to hold the Russian Federation accountable, an assessment of whether it is in the national security interests of the United States to remain a party to the INF treaty, and notification of any deployment by the Russian Federation of a ground launched ballistic or cruise missile system with a range of 500-5,000 kilometers.