

Union Calendar No.

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 7084

[Report No. 119-]

To amend title 46, United States Code, with respect to the types of vessels that may enter or operate in navigable waters of the United States or transfer cargo in any port or place under the jurisdiction of the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 15, 2026

Mr. PFLUGER (for himself, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. MANN, and Mr. EDWARDS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

FEBRUARY --, 2026

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

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

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on January 15, 2026]

A BILL

To amend title 46, United States Code, with respect to the types of vessels that may enter or operate in navigable waters of the United States or transfer cargo in any port or place under the jurisdiction of the United States, 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 “Defending American*
5 *Property Abroad Act of 2026”.*

6 **SEC. 2. CONDITION FOR ENTRY INTO PORTS IN THE**
7 **UNITED STATES.**

8 *Section 70022 of title 46, United States Code, is*
9 *amended—*

10 *(1) in subsection (a)(2)(A)—*

11 *(A) in clause (i)—*

12 *(i) by striking “subsection (b)(1)” and*
13 *inserting “subsection (b)(1)(A)”; and*

14 *(ii) in subclause (II) by striking “; or”*
15 *and inserting a semicolon;*

16 *(B) in clause (ii)—*

17 *(i) by striking “subsection (b)(2)” and*
18 *inserting “subsection (b)(1)(B)”; and*

19 *(ii) by striking the period at the end*
20 *and inserting “; or”; and*

21 *(C) by adding at the end the following:*

22 *“(iii) vessel described in subsection*
23 *(b)(1) in the case of—*

1 “(I) an emergency being experi-
2 enced by a vessel or an individual on
3 the vessel; or

4 “(II) a vessel authorized by the
5 owner, as described in subsection
6 (b)(1)(C)(ii), to transit the facilities
7 described in subsection (b)(1)(C).”; and

8 (2) in subsection (b)—

9 (A) in paragraph (2) by striking the period
10 at the end and inserting “; or”;

11 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (1) and
12 (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B) (and by mov-
13 ing the margins of such subparagraphs accord-
14 ingly);

15 (C) by striking “A vessel referred” and in-
16 serting the following:

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A vessel referred”; and

18 (D) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(C) a vessel that has transited a port, har-
20 bor, or marine terminal, that at the time of such
21 transit—

22 “(i) was located within the territory of
23 a Western Hemisphere country that has in
24 effect a free trade agreement with the
25 United States;

1 “(ii) was accessible only through land
2 that is owned, held, or controlled, directly
3 or indirectly, by a United States person;
4 and

5 “(iii) was designated by the President
6 under paragraph (2), and has not had such
7 designation removed under paragraph (3).

8 “(2) DESIGNATION.—The President may des-
9 ignate a port, harbor, or marine terminal under this
10 subsection if an agency or official of the government
11 of the Western Hemisphere foreign trade partner
12 has—

13 “(A) nationalized, or expropriated the port,
14 harbor, or marine terminal, owned, held, or con-
15 trolled, directly or indirectly, by a United States
16 person; or

17 “(B) taken any other action that has the ef-
18 fect of expropriating or nationalizing that port,
19 harbor, or marine terminal, or land providing
20 the exclusive access to that port, harbor, or ma-
21 rine terminal, as described in paragraph
22 (1)(C)(ii), as long as the matter is not the subject
23 of a currently pending arbitration under a free
24 trade agreement described in paragraph
25 (1)(C)(i).

1 “(3) *REMOVAL OF DESIGNATION.*—*The President*
2 *shall remove the designation of a port, harbor, or ma-*
3 *rine terminal made under paragraph (2) if the Presi-*
4 *dent determines that—*

5 “(A) *the conditions set forth in paragraph*
6 *(2) are no longer met;*

7 “(B) *the Western Hemisphere country has*
8 *restored ownership of the property of the United*
9 *States person and terminated any measures that*
10 *had the effect of seizing ownership or possession*
11 *of that property;*

12 “(C) *the Western Hemisphere country has*
13 *provided adequate and effective compensation for*
14 *such property in convertible foreign exchange or*
15 *other mutually acceptable compensation equiva-*
16 *lent to the full value thereof, as required by*
17 *international law; or*

18 “(D) *the dispute has otherwise been resolved*
19 *to the satisfaction of the President.”.*