

Dick Durbin

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To authorize the establishment of a Baltic Security Initiative for the purpose of strengthening the defensive capabilities of the Baltic countries.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—119th Cong., 1st Sess.

S. 2296

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By _____

To: _____

Referred _____

AMENDMENT N^o 3689*Durbin**S. 2296**4*

Page(s)

GPO: 2024 57-806 (mac)

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. DURBIN

Viz:

- 1 At the end of subtitle C of title XII, insert the fol-
- 2 lowing:
- 3 **SEC. 12. BALTIC SECURITY INITIATIVE.**
- 4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Pursuant to the authority
- 5 provided in chapter 16 of title 10, United States Code,
- 6 the Secretary of Defense may establish and carry out an
- 7 initiative, to be known as the “Baltic Security Initiative”,
- 8 for the purpose of deepening security cooperation with the
- 9 military forces of the Baltic countries.

*Mr. Grassley
Mr. Bennet
Mr. Welch
Mr. Blumenthal
Mr. Padilla
Mr. Gallego
Ms. Baldwin*

1 (b) RELATIONSHIP TO EXISTING AUTHORITIES.—An
2 initiative established under subsection (a) shall be carried
3 out pursuant to the authorities provided in title 10, United
4 States Code.

5 (c) OBJECTIVES.—The objectives of an initiative es-
6 tablished under subsection (a) shall be—

7 (1) to achieve United States national security
8 objectives by—

9 (A) deterring aggression by the Russian
10 Federation; and

11 (B) implementing the North Atlantic Trea-
12 ty Organization's new Strategic Concept, which
13 seeks to strengthen the alliance's deterrence
14 and defense posture by denying potential adver-
15 saries any possible opportunities for aggression;

16 (2) to enhance regional planning and coopera-
17 tion among the military forces of the Baltic coun-
18 tries, particularly with respect to long-term regional
19 capability projects, including—

20 (A) long-range precision fire systems and
21 capabilities;

22 (B) integrated air and missile defense;

23 (C) maritime domain awareness;

24 (D) land forces development, including
25 stockpiling large caliber ammunition;

1 (E) command, control, communications,
2 computers, intelligence, surveillance, and recon-
3 naissance;

4 (F) special operations forces development;

5 (G) coordination with and security en-
6 hancements for Poland, which is a neighboring
7 North Atlantic Treaty Organization ally; and

8 (H) other military capabilities, as deter-
9 mined by the Secretary; and

10 (3) with respect to the military forces of the
11 Baltic countries, to improve cyber defenses and resil-
12 ience to hybrid threats.

13 (d) STRATEGY.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
15 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
16 retary shall submit to the Committees on Armed
17 Services of the Senate and the House of Representa-
18 tives a report setting forth a strategy for the De-
19 partment of Defense to achieve the objectives de-
20 scribed in subsection (c).

21 (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—The strategy required
22 by this subsection shall include a consideration of—

23 (A) security assistance programs for the
24 Baltic countries authorized as of the date on
25 which the strategy is submitted;

1 (B) the ongoing security threats to the
2 North Atlantic Treaty Organization's eastern
3 flank posed by Russian aggression, including as
4 a result of the Russian Federation's 2022 inva-
5 sion of Ukraine with support from Belarus; and

6 (C) the ongoing security threats to the
7 Baltic countries posed by the presence, coercive
8 economic policies, and other malign activities of
9 the People's Republic of China.

10 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
12 appropriated to the Secretary \$350,000,000 for each
13 of the fiscal years 2026, 2027, and 2028 to carry
14 out an initiative established under subsection (a).

15 (2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of
16 Congress that the Secretary should seek to require
17 matching funds from each of the Baltic countries
18 that participate in such an initiative in amounts
19 commensurate with amounts provided by the De-
20 partment for the initiative.

21 (f) BALTIC COUNTRIES DEFINED.—In this section,
22 the term “Baltic countries” means—

23 (1) Estonia;

24 (2) Latvia; and

25 (3) Lithuania.