

RUSSIAN SANCTIONS REVIEW ACT

Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD), Rep. Tom Rooney (R-FL), Rep. Eliot Engel (D-NY), Rep. Adam Kinzinger (R-IL), Rep. Adam Schiff (D-CA), Rep. Adam Smith (D-WA), and Rep. Mike Turner (R-OH).

The Russian Sanctions Review Act is bipartisan legislation that requires Congressional approval of any sanctions relief provided to Russia.

COMPANION LEGISLATION

This legislation is a companion to an identical bipartisan bill introduced in the Senate by Senators Lindsay Graham (R-SC), Marco Rubio (R-FL), Ben Cardin (D-MD), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), John McCain (R-AZ), and Claire McCaskill (D-MO). The Russian Sanctions Review Act is based on the Iran Nuclear Review Act of 2015, which allowed Congress to vote on the lifting of Iran-related sanctions prior to implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. The bill is premised on the belief that sanctions relief should be offered in return for Russia ceasing the behavior that gave rise to the sanctions.

CURRENT US SANCTIONS ON RUSSIA

The United States imposed sanctions on Russia for Russia's ongoing aggression in Ukraine; its unlawful occupation of Crimea; and, most recently, Russia's malicious cyber activities intended to disrupt the 2016 U.S. election.

This bill would require a 120-day review period before the President may waive, suspend, reduce, provide relief from, or otherwise limit the application of sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation.

JOINT RESOLUTION OF DISAPPROVAL

This bill would authorize a joint resolution of disapproval and lay out procedures for such a resolution, which would prevent the President from lifting sanctions. If Congress does not pass a joint resolution of disapproval, the President may lift sanctions.

CODIFY EXECUTIVE ORDERS

The Russian Sanctions Review Act would further codify several existing executive orders imposing sanctions on Russian actors, including those recently imposed as a result of Russia's hacking of the United States.

PRESIDENTIAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS

The Russian Sanctions Review Act would require the President to submit a report to Congress describing any proposed changes to sanctions prior to taking any action to waive, suspend, reduce, provide relief from, or otherwise limit the application of sanctions with respect to the Russian Federation. The report would require a certification that the Government of Russia has ceased activities in Ukraine as well as cyberattacks against the USG and US persons.