

H.R. 2297: Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015
As amended by the Senate
Section-By-Section

This bill broadens financial sector sanctions against Hizballah, target its media appendage al-Manar, and targets Hizballah's other illicit activities to undermine the terrorist organization's support network.

Section 1. Short Title and Table of Contents. The Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015.

Section 2. Statement of Policy. States that it shall be United States policy to use all available diplomatic, legislative and executive avenues to combat the global criminal activities of Hizballah.

Title I—Prevention of Access by Hizballah to International Financial and Other Institutions.

Section 101. Report on Imposition of Sanctions on Certain Satellite Providers that Carry al-Manar TV. Al-Manar (“the beacon”) is Hizballah’s official television station, which promotes the full range of the group’s terrorist activities. Al-Manar, the Lebanese Communication Group, and the Lebanese Media Group have been sanctioned pursuant to Executive Order 13224, which prohibits persons from providing financial, material, or technological support for terrorist organizations. This section requires the Administration to report on the status of all satellite, internet and other providers that knowingly provide material support to al-Manar, and if a provider has not been sanctioned, explain why in a briefing.

Section 102. Sanctions with Respect to Financial Institutions that Engage in Certain Transactions. Allows the Administration to pursue foreign banks that knowingly do business with entities that facilitate Hizballah’s activities. Requires the Secretary of the Treasury to prohibit from the U.S. financial system, or impose severe limitations on, a foreign financial institution that engages in one of the specified transactions under this section, which include aiding transactions and money laundering for Hizballah. Allows the President to waive the requirements of this section if the President determines that doing so is vital to the national security interests of the United States. Gives foreign financial institutions the opportunity to wind down or cease operations that would otherwise result in sanctions under this section.

Title II—Reports and Briefings on Narcotics Trafficking and Significant Transnational Criminal Activities of Hizballah.

Section 201. Report and Briefing on Narcotics Trafficking by Hizballah. Requires the President, within 120 days of the bill’s enactment, to report to Congress on Hizballah’s activities with respect to narcotics trafficking and brief Congress as to whether Hizballah meets the criteria under the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act, and if not, specify what criteria have not been met. A “Kingpin Designation” under this Act would allow U.S. law enforcement to pursue Hizballah operatives in countries that have not yet designated Hizballah as a terrorist organization.

Section 202. Report and Briefing on Significant Transnational Criminal Activities of Hizballah. Requires the President, within 120 days of the bill’s enactment, to report to Congress on Hizballah’s transnational criminal activities and brief Congress as to whether Hizballah meets the criteria set forth in Executive Order 13581. This would result in Hizballah’s designation as a Transnational Criminal Organization, and would further empower U.S. law enforcement agencies to counter Hizballah’s other criminal enterprises, including money laundering and the counterfeiting of goods and pharmaceuticals.

Section 203. Rewards for Justice and Hizballah’s Fundraising, Financing, and Money Laundering Activities. Requires the Administration to submit a one-time report that details actions taken by the Department of State through its rewards program to obtain information on Hizballah’s fundraising, financing, and money laundering networks.

Section 204. Report on Activities of Foreign Governments to Disrupt Local Global Logistics Networks and Fundraising, Financing, and Money Laundering Activities of Hizballah. Requires the Administration to submit a one-time report that provides a comprehensive overview of countries supporting Hizballah, including those governments that are not taking adequate efforts to disrupt Hizballah's global logistics networks.

Title III—Miscellaneous Provisions.

Sec. 301. Rule of Construction. Provides that nothing in this Act shall apply to the authorized intelligence activities of the United States.

Sec. 302. Regulatory Authority. Requires the President to promulgate any necessary regulations for this Act's implementation within 120 days of its enactment.

Sec. 303. Termination. Provides for this Act's termination after the President certifies to Congress that Hizballah is no longer designated as a foreign terrorist organization.