

the appropriate congressional committees a comprehensive strategy to—

(1) assist the people of Iran to produce, access, and share information freely and safely via the Internet, including in Farsi and regional languages;

(2) support the development of counter-censorship technologies that enable the citizens of Iran to undertake Internet activities without interference from the Government of Iran;

(3) increase the capabilities and availability of secure mobile and other communications through connective technology among human rights and democracy activists in Iran;

(4) provide resources for digital safety training for media and academic and civil society organizations in Iran;

(5) provide accurate and substantive Internet content in local languages in Iran;

(6) increase emergency resources for the most vulnerable human rights advocates seeking to organize, share information, and support human rights in Iran;

(7) expand surrogate radio, television, live stream, and social network communications inside Iran, including—

(A) by expanding Voice of America's Persian News Network and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Radio Farda to provide hourly live news update programming and breaking news coverage capability 24 hours a day and 7 days a week; and

(B) by assisting telecommunications and software companies that are United States persons to comply with the export licensing requirements of the United States for the purpose of expanding such communications inside Iran;

(8) expand activities to safely assist and train human rights, civil society, and democracy activists in Iran to operate effectively and securely;

(9) identify and utilize all available resources to overcome attempts by the Government of Iran to jam or otherwise deny international satellite broadcasting signals;

(10) expand worldwide United States embassy and consulate programming for and outreach to Iranian dissident communities;

(11) expand access to proxy servers for democracy activists in Iran; and

(12) discourage telecommunications and software companies from facilitating Internet censorship by the Government of Iran.

(Pub. L. 112-158, title IV, § 414, Aug. 10, 2012, 126 Stat. 1256.)

#### § 8755. Statement of policy on political prisoners

It shall be the policy of the United States—

(1) to support efforts to research and identify prisoners of conscience and cases of human rights abuses in Iran;

(2) to offer refugee status or political asylum in the United States to political dissidents in Iran if requested and consistent with the laws and national security interests of the United States;

(3) to offer to assist, through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, with the relocation of such political prisoners to

other countries if requested, as appropriate and with appropriate consideration for the national security interests of the United States; and

(4) to publicly call for the release of Iranian dissidents by name and raise awareness with respect to individual cases of Iranian dissidents and prisoners of conscience, as appropriate and if requested by the dissidents or prisoners themselves or their families.

(Pub. L. 112-158, title IV, § 415, Aug. 10, 2012, 126 Stat. 1257.)

#### SUBCHAPTER V—MISCELLANEOUS

#### § 8771. Exclusion of citizens of Iran seeking education relating to the nuclear and energy sectors of Iran

##### (a) In general

The Secretary of State shall deny a visa to, and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall exclude from the United States, any alien who is a citizen of Iran that the Secretary of State determines seeks to enter the United States to participate in coursework at an institution of higher education (as defined in section 1001(a) of title 20) to prepare the alien for a career in the energy sector of Iran or in nuclear science or nuclear engineering or a related field in Iran.

##### (b) Applicability

Subsection (a) applies with respect to visa applications filed on or after August 10, 2012.

(Pub. L. 112-158, title V, § 501, Aug. 10, 2012, 126 Stat. 1258.)

#### TERMINATION OF SECTION

*For termination of section, see section 8785(a) of this title.*

#### § 8772. Interests in certain financial assets of Iran

##### (a) Interests in blocked assets

##### (1) In general

Subject to paragraph (2), notwithstanding any other provision of law, including any provision of law relating to sovereign immunity, and preempting any inconsistent provision of State law, a financial asset that is—

(A) held by or for a foreign securities intermediary doing business in the United States;

(B) a blocked asset (whether or not subsequently unblocked), or an asset that would be blocked if the asset were located in the United States, that is property described in subsection (b); and

(C) equal in value to a financial asset of Iran, including an asset of the central bank or monetary authority of the Government of Iran or any agency or instrumentality of that Government, that such foreign securities intermediary or a related intermediary holds abroad,

shall be subject to execution or attachment in aid of execution, or to an order directing that the asset be brought to the State in which the court is located and subsequently to execution or attachment in aid of execution, in order to

satisfy any judgment to the extent of any compensatory damages awarded against Iran for damages for personal injury or death caused by an act of torture, extrajudicial killing, aircraft sabotage, or hostage-taking, or the provision of material support or resources for such an act, without regard to concerns relating to international comity.

**(2) Court determination required**

In order to ensure that Iran is held accountable for paying the judgments described in paragraph (1) and in furtherance of the broader goals of this Act to sanction Iran, prior to an award turning over any asset pursuant to execution or attachment in aid of execution with respect to any judgments against Iran described in paragraph (1), the court shall determine whether Iran holds equitable title to, or the beneficial interest in, the assets described in subsection (b) and that no other person possesses a constitutionally protected interest in the assets described in subsection (b) under the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States. To the extent the court determines that a person other than Iran holds—

(A) equitable title to, or a beneficial interest in, the assets described in subsection (b) (excluding a custodial interest of a foreign securities intermediary or a related intermediary that holds the assets abroad for the benefit of Iran); or

(B) a constitutionally protected interest in the assets described in subsection (b),

such assets shall be available only for execution or attachment in aid of execution to the extent of Iran's equitable title or beneficial interest therein and to the extent such execution or attachment does not infringe upon such constitutionally protected interest.

**(b) Financial assets described**

The financial assets described in this section are the financial assets that are—

(1) identified in and the subject of proceedings in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York in *Peterson et al. v. Islamic Republic of Iran et al.*, Case No. 10 Civ. 4518 (BSJ) (GWG), that were restrained by restraining notices and levies secured by the plaintiffs in those proceedings, as modified by court order dated June 27, 2008, and extended by court orders dated June 23, 2009, May 10, 2010, and June 11, 2010, so long as such assets remain restrained by court order; and

(2) identified in and the subject of proceedings in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York in *Peterson et al. v. Islamic Republic of Iran et al.*, Case No. 13 Civ. 9195 (LAP).

**(c) Rules of construction**

Nothing in this section shall be construed—

(1) to affect the availability, or lack thereof, of a right to satisfy a judgment in any other action against a terrorist party in any proceedings other than proceedings referred to in subsection (b); or

(2) to apply to assets other than the assets described in subsection (b), or to preempt State law, including the Uniform Commercial

Code, except as expressly provided in subsection (a)(1).

**(d) Definitions**

In this section:

**(1) Blocked asset**

The term “blocked asset”—

(A) means any asset seized or frozen by the United States under section 4305(b) of title 50 or under section 202 or 203 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 and 1702); and

(B) does not include property that—

(i) is subject to a license issued by the United States Government for final payment, transfer, or disposition by or to a person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States in connection with a transaction for which the issuance of the license has been specifically required by a provision of law other than the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) or the United Nations Participation Act of 1945 (22 U.S.C. 287 et seq.); or

(ii) is property subject to the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations or the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, or that enjoys equivalent privileges and immunities under the laws of the United States, and is being used exclusively for diplomatic or consular purposes.

**(2) Financial asset; securities intermediary**

The terms “financial asset” and “securities intermediary” have the meanings given those terms in the Uniform Commercial Code, but the former includes cash.

**(3) Iran**

The term “Iran” means the Government of Iran, including the central bank or monetary authority of that Government and any agency or instrumentality of that Government.

**(4) Person**

**(A) In general**

The term “person” means an individual or entity.

**(B) Entity**

The term “entity” means a partnership, association, trust, joint venture, corporation, group, subgroup, or other organization.

**(5) Terrorist party**

The term “terrorist party” has the meaning given that term in section 201(d) of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (28 U.S.C. 1610 note).

**(6) United States**

The term “United States” includes all territory and waters, continental, or insular, subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

(Pub. L. 112-158, title V, §502, Aug. 10, 2012, 126 Stat. 1258; Pub. L. 116-92, div. A, title XII, §1226, Dec. 20, 2019, 133 Stat. 1645.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

This Act, referred to in subsec. (a)(2), is Pub. L. 112-158, Aug. 10, 2012, 126 Stat. 1214, known as the Iran

Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 8701 of this title and Tables.

The International Emergency Economic Powers Act, referred to in subsec. (d)(1)(B)(i), is title II of Pub. L. 95-223, Dec. 28, 1977, 91 Stat. 1626, which is classified generally to chapter 35 (§1701 et seq.) of Title 50, War and National Defense. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 1701 of Title 50 and Tables.

The United Nations Participation Act of 1945, referred to in subsec. (d)(1)(B)(i), is act of Dec. 20, 1945, ch. 583, 59 Stat. 619, which is classified to subchapter XVI (§287 et seq.) of chapter 7 of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 287 of this title and Tables.

Section 201(d) of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002, referred to in subsec. (d)(5), is section 201(d) of Pub. L. 107-297, which is set out as a note under section 1610 of Title 28, Judiciary and Judicial Procedure.

#### CODIFICATION

Section is comprised of section 502 of Pub. L. 112-158. Subsec. (e) of section 502 of Pub. L. 112-158 amended section 1610 of Title 28, Judiciary and Judicial Procedure, and amended section 201 of Pub. L. 107-297, set out as a note under section 1610 of Title 28.

#### AMENDMENTS

2019—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 116-92, §1226(1)(C), inserted “, or to an order directing that the asset be brought to the State in which the court is located and subsequently to execution or attachment in aid of execution,” after “in aid of execution” and “, without regard to concerns relating to international comity” after “resources for such an act” in concluding provisions.

Subsec. (a)(1)(A). Pub. L. 116-92, §1226(1)(A), which directed substitution of “by or” for “in the United States” in subpar. (A), was executed by making the substitution for “in the United States” the first time appearing in subpar. (A), to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

Subsec. (a)(1)(B). Pub. L. 116-92, §1226(1)(B), inserted “, or an asset that would be blocked if the asset were located in the United States,” after “unblocked”).

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 116-92, §1226(2), substituted “that are—” and par. (1) designation for “that are” and “court order; and” for “court order.” and added par. (2).

### § 8773. Report on membership of Iran in international organizations

Not later than 180 days after August 10, 2012, and not later than September 1 of each year thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report listing the international organizations of which Iran is a member and detailing the amount that the United States contributes to each such organization on an annual basis.

(Pub. L. 112-158, title V, §506, Aug. 10, 2012, 126 Stat. 1263.)

#### SUBCHAPTER VI—GENERAL PROVISIONS

### § 8781. Implementation; penalties

#### (a) Implementation

The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 1702 and 1704 of title 50 to carry out—

(1) sections 8721, 8722, 8723, 8724, 8725, 8726 of this title, 312,<sup>1</sup> and 8751 of this title, subchapter III, and subchapter VII;

(2) section 8513b of this title, as added by section 312;<sup>1</sup> and

(3) sections 8514a and 8514b of this title, as added by subtitle A of title IV.

#### (b) Penalties

##### (1) In general

The penalties provided for in subsections (b) and (c) of section 1705 of title 50 shall apply to a person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of a provision specified in paragraph (2) of this subsection, or an order or regulation prescribed under such a provision, to the same extent that such penalties apply to a person that commits an unlawful act described in section 1705(a) of title 50.

##### (2) Provisions specified

The provisions specified in this paragraph are the following:

(A) Sections 8721, 8722, 8723, and 8726 of this title, subchapter III, and subchapter VII.

(B) Sections 8514a and 8514b of this title, as added by subtitle A of title IV.

(Pub. L. 112-158, title VI, §601, Aug. 10, 2012, 126 Stat. 1263.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 312, referred to in subsec. (a)(1), is section 312 of Pub. L. 112-158, Aug. 10, 2012, 126 Stat. 1249. Subsec. (a) of section 312 is not classified to the Code. Subsecs. (b) and (c) of section 312 amended section 8513 of this title. Subsec. (d) of section 312 enacted provisions set out as a note under section 8513 of this title.

Section 8513b of this title, as added by section 312, referred to in subsec. (a)(2), was in the original “section 104A of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010, as added by section 312” and was translated as meaning section 104A of the Comprehensive Iran Sanctions, Accountability, and Divestment Act of 2010, as added by section 216(a) of Pub. L. 112-158, to reflect the probable intent of Congress. For classification of section 312 of Pub. L. 112-158, see above.

Sections 8514a and 8514b of this title, as added by subtitle A of title IV, referred to in subsecs. (a)(3) and (b)(2)(B), are sections 8514a and 8514b of this title, as added by subtitle A (§§401-403) of title IV of Pub. L. 112-158.

### § 8782. Applicability to certain intelligence activities

Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall apply to the authorized intelligence activities of the United States.

(Pub. L. 112-158, title VI, §602, Aug. 10, 2012, 126 Stat. 1264.)

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

This Act, referred to in text, is Pub. L. 112-158, Aug. 10, 2012, 126 Stat. 1214, known as the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012, which is classified principally to this chapter. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 8701 of this title and Tables.

### § 8783. Applicability to certain natural gas projects

#### (a) Exception for certain natural gas projects

Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall apply to any activity relating to a project—

<sup>1</sup> See References in Text note below.