

## **H.R. 4744, IRAN HUMAN RIGHTS AND HOSTAGE-TAKING ACCOUNTABILITY ACT**

### **SECTION-BY-SECTION SUMMARY**

**Section 1. Short Title.** “Iran Human Rights and Hostage-Taking Accountability Act.”

**Section 2. United States Policy on Human Rights Violations by the Government of Iran.**

This section briefly describes past and ongoing human rights abuses by the Iranian regime against minority communities and political opponents. It also includes a sense of Congress regarding actions the administration should take in response to the recent protests in Iran, including supporting Iranian desires for basic freedoms with better communication tools free from government suppression. Lastly, this section states that it is U.S. policy to stand with the people of Iran who seek the opportunity to freely elect a government of their choosing and to increase the use of all available authorities to impose sanctions on Iranian officials responsible for human rights abuses.

**Section 3. Determinations with Respect to Imposition of Sanctions on Certain Persons Responsible for or Complicit in Human Rights Abuses, Engaging in Censorship, Engaging in the Diversion of Goods Intended for the People of Iran, or Engaging in Corruption.**

This section requires the President to determine whether senior members of the Government of Iran are responsible for or complicit in committing human rights abuses and should be sanctioned. It also requires a determination as to whether senior Iranian officials should be sanctioned for corrupt activities.

**Section 4. United States Policy on Hostage-Taking by the Government of Iran.**

This section describes the Iranian regime’s practice of taking Americans and other foreign nationals hostage. It lays out several steps that the Administration should take in conjunction with our allies to put an end to this practice, including attempting to extradite, try, and convict Iranian officials responsible for this practice and requires that the Secretary of State provide to Congress a strategy on how it will do so.

**Section 5. Imposition of Sanctions with Respect to Persons Who Engage in Certain Actions Against United States Citizens or Iranian Persons.**

This section states that the U.S. should coordinate with our allies and partners whose citizens have been held hostage by Iran to apply sanctions against those responsible or complicit in such detention. It imposes property blocking sanctions and visa prohibitions on Iranian officials responsible for the politically-motivated detentions of U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents, as well as those engaged in abuses against Iranian expatriates. The provision also applies visa denial sanctions to close family members of the sanctioned individuals.

**Section 6. Consolidation of Certain Reports.**

This section allows for the consolidation of certain reports to Congress regarding Iran