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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To direct the Secretary of State to establish a strategy for monitoring the general elections in the Republic of Honduras to take place on November 30, 2025, and for other purposes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Ms. SALAZAR introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL**

To direct the Secretary of State to establish a strategy for monitoring the general elections in the Republic of Honduras to take place on November 30, 2025, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Protect Honduran De-  
5       mocracy Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7       It is the sense of Congress that—

1           (1) the 2025 election process in the Republic of  
2           Honduras raises serious concerns about the fairness  
3           of the electoral process, including irregularities with  
4           the March 2025 primary election, violence against  
5           candidates and the actions undertaken by security  
6           and defense forces under the ongoing state of emer-  
7           gency, including serious human rights violations  
8           which undermine the conditions of the election;

9           (2) there is a need for the United States to  
10          support efforts to ensure elections in the Republic of  
11          Honduras to take place on November 30, 2025, are  
12          free and fair; and

13          (3) the armed forces of Honduras and other rel-  
14          evant institutions with a role in the electoral process  
15          should respect their role within the confines of the  
16          constitution of Honduras and protect the democratic  
17          process.

18 **SEC. 3. STRATEGY.**

19          (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall es-  
20          tablish a strategy to promote free and fair elections in  
21          Honduras to take place on November 30, 2025.

22          (b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The strategy re-  
23          quired by subsection (a) shall include support for moni-  
24          toring the elections by credible and internationally recog-  
25          nized elections monitoring bodies, such as the Organiza-

tion of American States, the European Union, the United Nations, and experienced civil society observers and others to achieve the following:

(1) Ensure that candidates to public office are not subject to harassment, undue legal persecution or other efforts to misuse state resources to dissuade them or undermine their candidacies.

(2) Avoid the misuse of state resources aimed at influencing voter preferences.

(3) Avoid the use of violence and intimidation, including by transnational criminal organizations, local gangs, or political parties and their proxies.

(4) Guarantee freedom of speech and assembly.

(5) Ensure transparent and credible transmission of elections results.

#### **SEC. 4. ASSISTANCE.**

The President, acting through the Secretary of State, is authorized to provide assistance on a grant basis to non-governmental organizations for activities—

(1) to monitor the national elections in Honduras to take place on November 30, 2025; and

(2) to assess the extent to which these elections are held on a free and fair basis.

1 **SEC. 5. SANCTIONS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall impose the  
3 sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to any  
4 foreign person, including any current or former official of  
5 the Government of Honduras or any person acting on be-  
6 half of that Government, that the President determines—

7 (1) has unduly prevented, or is responsible for  
8 ordering or otherwise directing the undue prevention  
9 of, any candidate, or prospective candidate, in the  
10 general elections in Honduras to take place on No-  
11 vember 30, 2025;

12 (2) has knowingly materially assisted, spon-  
13 sored, or provided significant financial, material, or  
14 technological support for, or goods or services in  
15 support of, the commission of the acts described in  
16 paragraph (1); or

17 (3) has carried out acts of intimidation or har-  
18 assment toward candidates, election officials, or elec-  
19 tion observers, including through the use of spurious  
20 legal action.

21 (b) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The sanctions described in  
23 this subsection are, in the case of an alien deter-  
24 mined by the President to be subject to subsection  
25 (a), denial of a visa to, and exclusion from the  
26 United States of, the alien, and revocation in accord-

1       ance with section 221(i) of the Immigration and Na-  
2       tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i)), of any visa or other  
3       documentation of the alien.

4           (2) EXCEPTIONS.—The sanctions described in  
5       paragraph (1) shall not apply with respect to a for-  
6       eign person that—

7           (A) the President determines is the subject  
8       of other sanctions equivalent to those described  
9       in paragraph (1); or

10          (B) is an alien, if admitting the alien into  
11       the United States is necessary to permit the  
12       United States to comply with the Agreement re-  
13       garding the Headquarters of the United Na-  
14       tions, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947,  
15       and entered into force November 21, 1947, be-  
16       tween the United Nations and the United  
17       States, or other applicable international obliga-  
18       tions.

19          (c) WAIVER.—The President may waive the applica-  
20       tion of sanctions under subsection (b) with respect to a  
21       foreign person if the President—

22           (1) determines that such a waiver is in the na-  
23       tional interest of the United States; and

24           (2) on or before the date on which the waiver  
25       takes effect, submits to the Committee on Foreign

1 Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of  
2 the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs  
3 and the Committee on Appropriations of the House  
4 of Representatives a notice of and justification for  
5 the waiver.

6 (d) REGULATORY AUTHORITY.—The President shall  
7 issue such regulations, licenses, and orders as are nec-  
8 essary to carry out this section.

9 **SEC. 6. PROMOTION OF MIGRANT PARTICIPATION IN ELEC-**  
10 **TIONS.**

11 Congress encourages the Secretary of State to pro-  
12 mote the ability of citizens of Honduras residing in the  
13 United States to vote in the general elections in Honduras  
14 to take place on November 30, 2025.

15 **SEC. 7. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

16 It is the sense of Congress that the President should  
17 continue to seek to coordinate with other countries, par-  
18 ticularly Central American countries, a comprehensive,  
19 multilateral strategy to further the purposes of this Act,  
20 including, as appropriate, encouraging other countries to  
21 take measures with respect to Honduras that are similar  
22 to measures described in this Act.