

## SUPPORT FOR THE POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE OF LEBANON

**SEC. 599F.** (a) The Senate makes the following findings:

(1) The United States has long supported the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence of Lebanon and the sole and exclusive exercise by the Government of Lebanon of national governmental authority throughout that country.

(2) The continued presence in Lebanon of nongovernmental armed groups and militias, including Hizbollah, prevents the Government of Lebanon from exercising its full sovereignty over all territory in that country.

(3) The Government of Syria has had a military presence in Lebanon since 1976, and maintains approximately 20,000 troops in Lebanon.

(4) The Government of Syria continues to violate United Nations Security Council Resolution 520, adopted in 1982, which demands that "all non-Lebanese forces" leave Lebanon.

(5) Syria has, since 1979, been labeled by the Department of State as a state sponsor of terrorism.

(6) President George W. Bush signed an Executive order on May 11, 2004, that implements sanctions against the Government of Syria pursuant to the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-175; 22 U.S.C. 2151 note), demonstrating the resolve of the United States to address both the continued military presence of Syria in Lebanon and the support of the Government of Syria for terrorism.

(7) United Nations Security Council Resolution 1559, approved on September 2, 2004, expressed support for a free and fair electoral process in the upcoming presidential election in Lebanon conducted according to constitutional rules adopted in Lebanon without foreign interference or influence.

(8) On September 3, 2004, the Government of Syria, according to numerous reports, exerted undue influence upon government officials in Lebanon to amend the constitution to extend the term of the President of Lebanon, Emile Lahoud, who is supported by the Government of Syria.

(b) Congress--

(1) commends President George W. Bush for implementing sanctions on the Government of Syria pursuant to the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003;

(2) urges the United Nations to seek a firm, negotiated schedule for the complete withdrawal from Lebanon of Syria armed forces in order to facilitate the restoration of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence of Lebanon;

(3) calls upon the Government of Syria to immediately withdraw its troops from Lebanon in accordance with United Nations resolutions;

(4) demands that the Government of Syria--

(A) cease its support and armament of terror groups such as Hizbollah; and

(B) facilitate efforts by the legitimate national government and armed forces of Lebanon to disarm all nongovernmental armed groups and militias located in Lebanon and to extend central government authority throughout Lebanon; and

(5) condemns all efforts to derail the democratic process in Lebanon and to interfere with the legitimate election process in that country.