

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To establish the Senate NATO Observer Group, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. TILLIS (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To establish the Senate NATO Observer Group, 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. UNITED STATES SENATE NATO OBSERVER**
4 **GROUP.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within
6 the Senate a group of Senators to address and advise on
7 matters relating to the North Atlantic Treaty Organiza-
8 tion, to be known as the “Senate NATO Observer Group”.

9 (b) FUNCTIONS.—The Senate NATO Observer
10 Group shall—

1 (1) serve as a forum for addressing matters re-
2 relating to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization
3 that fall within the jurisdictions of 2 or more com-
4 mittees of the Senate;

5 (2) advise the Senate on issues relating to the
6 North Atlantic Treaty Organization, including North
7 Atlantic Treaty Organization enlargement; and

8 (3) with respect to any matter involving the
9 North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the United
10 States Government, particularly during negotiations
11 on North Atlantic Treaty Organization enlargement,
12 engage in close interactions between and among the
13 executive branch, the Senate, the North Atlantic
14 Treaty Organization, any other member country of
15 the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and any
16 country that is a candidate for membership in the
17 North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

18 (c) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS.—

19 (1) 119TH CONGRESS.—During the 119th Con-
20 gress, the Senate NATO Observer Group shall exist
21 in the manner established by the majority leader and
22 the minority leader of the Senate in the Congres-
23 sional Record at the beginning of first session of the
24 119th Congress.

25 (2) SUBSEQUENT CONGRESSES.—

1 (A) APPOINTMENT.—Beginning in the
2 120th Congress, not later than 60 days after
3 the date on which of the first session of each
4 Congress convenes, the majority leader and the
5 minority leader of the Senate shall each appoint
6 to the Senate NATO Observer Group not more
7 than 7 Senators.

8 (B) CO-CHAIRS.—Of the members ap-
9 pointed under subparagraph (A), the majority
10 leader and the minority leader of the Senate
11 shall each appoint 1 co-chairperson of the Sen-
12 ate NATO Observer Group.

13 (d) FOREIGN TRAVEL.—Each co-chair of the Senate
14 NATO Observer Group and 1 designated staff member
15 may engage in foreign travel for official purposes if such
16 travel is authorized by the other co-chair of the Senate
17 NATO Observer Group.

18 (e) INTERPARLIAMENTARY SERVICES.—The Office of
19 Interparliamentary Services of the Senate shall be des-
20 ignated to provide administrative support and protocol
21 functions to the Senate NATO Observer Group, and for
22 special delegations or travel authorized by the majority
23 leader or the minority leader of the Senate.

24 (f) USE OF FOREIGN CURRENCIES.—Beginning on
25 the date of the enactment of this Act, the co-chairs of the

1 Senate NATO Observer Group are authorized to use funds
2 in accordance with the provisions of law relating to foreign
3 currencies, as codified in section 1754 of title 22, United
4 States Code, for activities critical to carrying out the func-
5 tions of the Senate NATO Observer Group.

6 (g) REPORT.—Not less frequently than annually, the
7 Senate NATO Observer Group shall submit to the major-
8 ity leader and minority leader of the Senate and the chair-
9 person and ranking member of the Committee on Foreign
10 Relations of the Senate a report on the activities under-
11 taken by the Senate NATO Observer Group during the
12 preceding fiscal year, including with respect to travel, leg-
13 islative efforts, and public diplomacy initiatives.