



## **H.R. 6646 - To require the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, to provide detailed briefings to Congress on any recent discussions conducted between United States Government and the Government of Taiwan and any potential transfer of defense articles or defense services to the Government of Taiwan**

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 6646 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) on July 29, 2008. The bill was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, but was not considered.

H.R. 6646 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 23, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.R. 6646 requires the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, to provide briefings to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on any discussions between the executive branch and the Government of Taiwan and any potential transfer of defense articles or services to the Government of Taiwan.

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### BACKGROUND

United States arms sales to Taiwan are governed by the Taiwan Relations Act, which was enacted in 1979 after the United States extended diplomatic recognition to the People's Republic of China. The Taiwan Relations Act states that the United States will make available defense articles and services in such amounts necessary to enable Taiwan to maintain sufficient self-defense capability. In addition, it stipulates that both the President and the Congress shall determine the nature and quantity of these defense articles and services "based solely" on their judgment of the needs of Taiwan.

In June 2007, Taiwan's 2007 defense budget included funds for P-3C planes, PAC-2 upgrades, and F-16C/D fighters. However, according to the Congressional Research Service, the executive branch has not sent any arms transfer notifications to Congress during calendar year 2008. On July 12, 2008, Taiwan's President Ma Ying-jeou stated that the island needs to secure defensive weapons from the United States. Admiral Timothy Keating, Commander of United States Pacific Command, acknowledged that the executive branch had imposed a "freeze" on arms sales to Taiwan.

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### COST

The Congressional Budget Office has not issued a cost estimate for this legislation.

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### STAFF CONTACT

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