

1 Title: To establish and authorize funding for a Russian Sanctions Enforcement Fund to enforce
2 United States sanctions with respect to Russia and its illegal ghost ship fleet to pay off the United
3 States public debt and to codify the Export Enforcement Coordination Center.
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6 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in
7 Congress assembled,

8 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

9 This Act may be cited as the “Global Hunt for Offshore Smuggling and Trafficking (GHOST)
10 Act of 2025”.

11 SEC. 2. RUSSIA SANCTIONS ENFORCEMENT FUND.

12 (a) In General.—Not later than 15 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, there shall
13 be established in the Treasury of the United States a fund, to be known as the “Russian Sanctions
14 Enforcement Fund” (in this section referred to as the “Fund”), to pay expenses relating to
15 seizures and forfeitures of property made with respect to violations by Russia or a covered
16 merchant ship transporting goods on behalf of the Russian Federation or related affiliates under
17 sanctions imposed by the United States.

18 (b) Designation of Administrator.—Not later than 15 days after the date of the enactment of
19 this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury,
20 shall appoint an administrator for the Fund (in this section referred to as the “Administrator”).

21 (c) Expenditures From the Fund.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may authorize amounts from the Fund to be used,
23 without further appropriation or fiscal year limitation, for payment of all proper expenses
24 relating to a covered seizure or forfeiture, including the following:

25 (A) Investigative costs incurred by a law enforcement agency of the Department of
26 Homeland Security or the Department of Justice.

27 (B) Expenses of detention, inventory, security, maintenance, advertisement, or
28 disposal of the property seized or forfeited, and if condemned by a court and a bond for
29 such costs was not given, the costs as taxed by the court.

30 (C) Costs of—

31 (i) contract services relating to a covered seizure or forfeiture;

32 (ii) the employment of outside contractors to operate and manage properties
33 seized or forfeited or to provide other specialized services necessary to dispose of
34 such properties in an effort to maximize the return from such properties; and

35 (iii) reimbursing any Federal, State, or local agency for any expenditures made
36 to perform the functions described in this subparagraph.

37 (D) Payments to reimburse any covered Federal agency for investigative costs
38 incurred leading to a covered seizure or forfeiture.

39 (E) Payments for contracting for the services of experts and consultants needed by

1 the Department of Homeland Security or the Department of Justice to assist in carrying
2 out duties related to a covered seizure or forfeiture.

3 (F) Awards of compensation to informers for assistance provided with respect to a
4 violation by Russia or a covered merchant ship transporting goods on behalf of the
5 Russian Federation or related affiliates sanctions imposed by the United States that
6 leads to a covered seizure or forfeiture.

7 (G) Equitable sharing payments made to other Federal agencies, State and local law
8 enforcement agencies, and foreign governments for expenses incurred with respect to a
9 covered seizure or forfeiture.

10 (H) Payment of overtime pay, salaries, travel, fuel, training, equipment, and other
11 similar expenses of State or local law enforcement officers that are incurred in joint
12 law enforcement operations with a covered Federal agency relating to covered seizure
13 or forfeiture.

14 (2) AUTHORIZATION OF USE OF FUND FOR ADDITIONAL PURPOSES.—The Secretary of
15 Homeland Security may direct the Administrator to authorize the use of amounts in the
16 Fund for the following:

17 (A) Payment of awards for information or assistance leading to a civil or criminal
18 forfeiture made with respect to a violation by Russia or a covered merchant ship
19 transporting goods on behalf of the Russian Federation or related affiliates sanctions
20 imposed by the United States and involving any covered Federal agency.

21 (B) Purchases of evidence or information by a covered Federal agency with respect
22 to a violation by Russia or a covered a covered merchant ship transporting goods on
23 behalf of the Russian Federation or related affiliates sanctions imposed by the United
24 States that leads to a covered seizure or forfeiture.

25 (C) Payment for equipment for any vessel, vehicle, or aircraft available for official
26 use by a covered Federal agency to enable the vessel, vehicle, or aircraft to assist in
27 law enforcement functions relating to a covered seizure or forfeiture, and for other
28 equipment directly related to a covered seizure or forfeiture, including laboratory
29 equipment, protective equipment, communications equipment, and the operation and
30 maintenance costs of such equipment.

31 (D) Payment for equipment for any vessel, vehicle, or aircraft for official use by a
32 State or local law enforcement agency to enable the vessel, vehicle, or aircraft to assist
33 in law enforcement functions relating to a covered seizure or forfeiture if the vessel,
34 vehicle, or aircraft will be used in joint law enforcement operations with a covered
35 Federal agency.

36 (E) Reimbursement of individuals or organizations for expenses incurred by such
37 individuals or organizations in cooperating with a covered Federal agency in
38 investigations and undercover law enforcement operations relating to a covered seizure
39 or forfeiture.

40 (3) PRIORITIZATION OF ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE FUND.—In allocating amounts from the
41 Fund for the purposes described in paragraphs (1) and (2), the Administrator shall prioritize
42 activities that result in the seizure and forfeiture of oil or petroleum products or other

1 commodities or methods of exchange that fund the efforts of Russia or a covered merchant
2 ship transporting goods on behalf of the Russian Federation or related affiliates to carry out
3 evasive or deceptive acts.

4 (d) Management of Fund.—The Fund shall be managed and invested in the same manner as a
5 trust fund is managed and invested under section 9602 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

6 (e) Funding.—

7 (1) INITIAL FUNDING.—

8 (A) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to
9 the Fund \$150,000,000 for fiscal year 2025, to remain available until expended.

10 (B) REPAYMENT OF INITIAL FUNDING.—

11 (i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30, 2035, the Administrator shall
12 transfer from the Fund into the general fund of the Treasury an amount equal to
13 \$150,000,000, as adjusted pursuant to paragraph (4).

14 (ii) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The repayment of amounts under clause (i) shall
15 not be construed as a termination of the authority for the operation of the Fund.

16 (2) MAXIMUM END-OF-YEAR BALANCE.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—If, at the end of a fiscal year, the amount in the Fund exceeds the
18 amount specified in subparagraph (B), the Administrator shall transfer the amount in
19 excess of the amount specified in subparagraph (B) to the general fund of the Treasury
20 for the payment of the public debt of the United States.

21 (B) AMOUNT SPECIFIED.—The amount specified in this subparagraph is—

22 (i) in fiscal year 2025, \$500,000,000; and

23 (ii) in any fiscal year thereafter, \$500,000,000, as adjusted pursuant to
24 paragraph (4).

25 (3) ADJUSTMENTS FOR INFLATION.—

26 (A) IN GENERAL.—The amounts described in paragraphs (1)(B)(i) and (3)(B)(ii)
27 shall be adjusted, at the beginning of each of fiscal years 2026 through 2035, to reflect
28 the percentage (if any) of the increase in the average of the Consumer Price Index for
29 the preceding 12-month period compared to the Consumer Price Index for fiscal year
30 2024.

31 (B) CONSUMER PRICE INDEX DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term “Consumer Price
32 Index” means the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the
33 Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor.

34 (f) Prohibition on Transfer of Funds.—

35 (1) IN GENERAL.—Any expenditure of amounts in the Fund, or transfer of amounts from
36 the Fund, not authorized by this section is prohibited.

37 (2) ACTS BY CONGRESS.—Any Act of Congress to remove money from the Fund shall be
38 reported in the Federal Register not later than 10 days after the enactment of the Act.

1 (g) Report.—Not later than September 1, 2025, and annually thereafter through September 1,
2 2035, the Secretary of Homeland Security, with the concurrence of the Secretary of the Treasury,
3 shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on—

4 (1) all activities supported by the Fund during the fiscal year during which the report is
5 submitted and the preceding fiscal year;

6 (2) a list of each covered seizure or forfeiture supported by the Fund during those fiscal
7 years and, with respect to each such seizure or forfeiture—

8 (A) the goods seized;

9 (B) the current status of the forfeiture of the goods;

10 (C) an assessment of the impact on the national security of the United States of the
11 seizure or forfeiture, including the estimated loss of revenue to the person from which
12 the goods were seized; and

13 (D) any anticipated response or outcome of the seizure or forfeiture;

14 (3) the financial health and financial data of the Fund as of the date of the report;

15 (4) the amount transferred to the general fund of the Treasury under subsection (e) or (h);

16 (5)(A) the amount paid to informants for information or evidence under subsection (c);

17 (B) whether the information or evidence led to a seizure; and

18 (C) if so, the cost of the goods seized;

19 (6) the amount remaining to be transferred under subsection (e)(3) and an estimated
20 timeline for transferring the full amount required by that subsection; and

21 (7)(A) any instances during the fiscal years covered by the report of a covered seizure or
22 forfeiture if, after amounts were expended from the Fund to support the seizure or
23 forfeiture, the seizure or forfeiture did not occur as a result of a policy decision made by the
24 Secretary of Homeland Security, the President, or any other official of the United States;
25 and

26 (B) a description of the costs incurred and reasons the seizure or forfeiture did not occur.

27 (h) Failure To Report or Utilize the Fund.—

28 (1) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO SUBMIT REPORT.—If a report required by subsection (g) is not
29 submitted to the appropriate congressional committees by the date that is 180 days after the
30 report is due under subsection (g), the Administrator shall transfer an amount equal to 5
31 percent of the amounts in the Fund to the general fund of the Treasury for the payment of
32 the public debt of the United States. For each 90-day period thereafter during which the
33 report is not submitted, the Administrator shall transfer an additional amount, equal to 5
34 percent of the amounts in the Fund, to the general fund of the Treasury for that purpose.

35 (2) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO USE FUND.—If a report submitted under subsection (g)
36 indicates that amounts in the Fund have not been used for any seizure or forfeiture activity
37 during the fiscal years covered by the report, the Fund shall be terminated and any amounts
38 in the Fund shall transferred to the general fund of the Treasury for the payment of the
39 public debt of the United States.

1 (3) WAIVER OF TERMINATION OF FUND FOR NATIONAL SECURITY PURPOSES.—

2 (A) IN GENERAL.—If the President determines that it is in the national security
3 interests of the United States not to terminate the Fund as required by paragraph (2),
4 the President may waive the requirement to terminate the Fund.

5 (B) REPORT REQUIRED.—If the President exercises the waiver authority under
6 subparagraph (A), the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional
7 committees a report describing the factors considered in determining that it is in the
8 national security interests of the United States not to terminate the Fund.

9 (C) FORM.—The report required by subparagraph (B) shall be submitted in
10 unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

11 (i) Rule of Construction.—Nothing in this section may be construed to affect the requirements
12 of subsection (e) of the Justice for United States Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Act (34
13 U.S.C. 20144) or the operation of the United States Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Fund
14 under that subsection.

15 (j) Definitions.—In this section:

16 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional
17 committees” means—

18 (A) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and the Committee on
19 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

20 (B) the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Homeland Security
21 of the House of Representatives.

22 (2) COVERED FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term “covered Federal agency” means any Federal
23 agency specified in section 3(b).

24 (3) COVERED Merchant Ship Transporting Goods on behalf of the Russian Federation or
25 related affiliates The term “Merchant ship transporting Goods on behalf of the Russian
26 Federation or related affiliates” means a flag ship transporting sanctioned oil in
27 organization or other organization that works on behalf of or receives financial or material
28 support from the Russian Federation including—

29 (A) The Russian Federation

30 (B) Gazprom

31 (4) COVERED SEIZURE OR FORFEITURE.—The term “covered seizure or forfeiture” means a
32 seizure or forfeiture of property made with respect to a violation by Russia or merchant ship
33 transporting goods on behalf of the Russian Federation or related affiliates of sanctions
34 imposed by the United States.

35 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF EXPORT ENFORCEMENT**
36 **COORDINATION CENTER.**

37 (a) Establishment.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall operate and maintain, within
38 Homeland Security Investigations, the Export Enforcement Coordination Center, as established
39 by Executive Order 13558 (50 U.S.C. 4601 note) (in this section referred to as the “Center”).

1 (b) Purposes.—The Center shall serve as the primary center for Federal Government export
2 enforcement efforts among the following agencies:

- 3 (1) The Department of State.
- 4 (2) The Department of the Treasury.
- 5 (3) The Department of Defense.
- 6 (4) The Department of Justice.
- 7 (5) The Department of Commerce.
- 8 (6) The Department of Energy.
- 9 (7) The Department of Homeland Security.
- 10 (8) The Office of the Director of National Intelligence.
- 11 (9) Such other agencies as the President may designate.

12 (c) Coordination Authority.—The Center shall—

13 (1) serve as a conduit between Federal law enforcement agencies and the intelligence
14 community (as defined in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C.
15 3003(4))) for the exchange of information related to potential violations of United States
16 export controls;

17 (2) serve as a primary point of contact between enforcement authorities and agencies
18 engaged in export licensing;

19 (3) coordinate law enforcement public outreach activities related to United States export
20 controls;

21 (4) serve as the primary deconfliction and support center to assist law enforcement
22 agencies to coordinate and enhance investigations with respect to export control violations;

23 (5) establish integrated, governmentwide statistical tracking and targeting capabilities to
24 support export enforcement; and

25 (6) carry out additional duties as assigned by the Secretary of Homeland Security
26 regarding the enforcement of United States export control laws.

27 (d) Administration.—The Executive Associate Director of Homeland Security Investigations
28 shall—

29 (1) serve as the administrator of the Center; and

30 (2) maintain documentation that describes the participants in, funding of, core functions
31 of, and personnel assigned to, the Center.

32 (e) Director; Deputy Directors.—

33 (1) DIRECTOR.—The Center shall have a Director, who shall be—

34 (A) a member of the Senior Executive Service (as defined in section 2101a of title 5,
35 United States Code) and a special agent within Homeland Security Investigations; and

36 (B) designated by the Secretary of Homeland Security.

1 (2) DEPUTY DIRECTORS.—The Center shall have 2 Deputy Directors, as follows:

2 (A) One Deputy Director, who shall be—

3 (i) a full-time employee of the Department of Commerce; and

4 (ii) appointed by the Secretary of Commerce.

5 (B) One Deputy Director, who shall be—

6 (i) a full-time employee of the Department of Justice; and

7 (ii) appointed by the Attorney General.

8 (f) Liaisons From Other Agencies.—

9 (1) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY LIAISON.—An intelligence community liaison shall be
10 detailed to the Center. The liaison shall be—

11 (A) a full-time employee of an element of the intelligence community; and

12 (B) designated by the Director of National Intelligence.

13 (2) LIAISONS FROM OTHER AGENCIES.—

14 (A) IN GENERAL.—A liaison shall be detailed to the Center by each agency specified
15 in subparagraph (B). Such liaisons shall be special agents, officers, intelligence
16 analysts, or intelligence officers, as appropriate.

17 (B) AGENCIES SPECIFIED.—The agencies specified in this subparagraph are the
18 following:

19 (i) Homeland Security Investigations.

20 (ii) U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

21 (iii) The Office of Export Enforcement of the Bureau of Industry and Security
22 of the Department of Commerce.

23 (iv) The Federal Bureau of Investigation.

24 (v) The Defense Criminal Investigative Service.

25 (vi) The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

26 (vii) The National Counterintelligence and Security Center of the Office of the
27 Director of National Intelligence.

28 (viii) The Department of Energy.

29 (ix) The Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury.

30 (x) The Directorate of Defense Trade Controls of the Department of State.

31 (xi) The Office of Export Administration of the Bureau of Industry and
32 Security.

33 (xii) The Office of Enforcement Analysis of the Bureau of Industry and
34 Security.

35 (xiii) The Office of Special Investigations of the Air Force.

- 1 (xiv) The Criminal Investigation Division of the Army.
- 2 (xv) The Naval Criminal Investigative Service.
- 3 (xvi) The Defense Intelligence Agency.
- 4 (xvii) The Defense Counterintelligence and Security Agency.
- 5 (xviii) Any other agency, at the request of the Secretary of Homeland Security.
- 6