

To the office of U.S. Representative Rashida Tlaib

Re: HCONRES 84 (119th Congress), Directing the President pursuant to section 5(c) of the War Powers Resolution to remove United States Armed Forces from Lebanon. • Latest action (2026-06-04): Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
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Lebanon Troop Withdrawal Authorization and Oversight Act of 2025

The measure, as described from the official record: To compel the President to withdraw U.S. Armed Forces from Lebanon under the War Powers Resolution, asserting congressional authority over military engagements abroad.

THE PROPOSAL

This Act authorizes and directs the President to withdraw all United States Armed Forces from Lebanon within 180 days of enactment, unless Congress enacts a joint resolution authorizing continued deployment. The withdrawal shall be conducted in an orderly manner to ensure the safety of U.S. personnel and assets, and the President shall report to Congress every 30 days on progress. Funding for the withdrawal is appropriated from the Department of Defense Operations and Maintenance account, not to exceed \$50 million, offset by a reduction in the Overseas Contingency Operations fund. The Act sunsets after two years, and any re-deployment to Lebanon requires a new joint resolution of Congress. The Government Accountability Office shall oversee compliance and report any delays or cost overruns. Enforcement is through the Impoundment Control Act: if the President fails to comply, the Comptroller General may seek injunctive relief in federal court to compel withdrawal.

OPERATIVE PROVISIONS (VFA PROPOSAL)

Funding Source	Reduction in the Overseas Contingency Operations fund by \$50 million.
Funding Amount	\$50 million (capped).
Sunset Years	2 years
Oversight Body	Government Accountability Office (GAO).
Enforcement Mechanism	Injunctive relief via the Impoundment Control Act (2 U.S.C. § 687) if the President fails to comply within 180 days.
Effective Date	30 days after enactment.

CONSTITUTIONAL BASIS

- Article I, Section 8, Clause 11 (Congress's power to declare war)
- Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (Necessary and Proper Clause)
- Article I, Section 9, Clause 7 (Appropriations Clause)
- Article II, Section 2, Clause 1 (Commander-in-Chief power)
- Tenth Amendment (reserving powers to the states, though not directly implicated here)

Concerns with the measure as written:

- The War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. § 1544(c)) may itself raise separation-of-powers questions regarding the President's Commander-in-Chief power under Article II, Section 2, Clause 1.
- A concurrent resolution (H.Con.Res.) does not have the force of law and cannot legally compel the President to act; it is a sense-of-Congress measure, which may be ineffective and potentially encroach on executive discretion in foreign affairs.
- The resolution does not specify a funding source or mechanism for withdrawal, potentially violating the Appropriations Clause (Article I, Section 9, Clause 7) if it implies an unfunded mandate.

WHY BOTH SIDES CAN BACK IT (VFA'S ASSESSMENT)

Democratic priorities: asserts congressional war powers, limits executive unilateral military action, and ensures transparency through GAO oversight. Republican priorities: respects the President's Commander-in-Chief role by providing a reasonable withdrawal timeline, uses offset funding to avoid deficit spending, and includes a sunset to prevent permanent mandates.

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