

Section-by-Section

The STRATA Act (Strategic Technology and Resilient Alliances)

Introduced by Representatives Young Kim and Ami Bera

Section 1. Short Title; Table of Contents.

This section establishes the short title of the bill as the “Strategic Technology and Resilient Alliances Act” or the “STRATA Act”. Also provides the table of contents for the Act.

Sec 2. Sense of Congress.

This subsection lists the key facts, issues, or problems that Congress has identified which justify the need for the legislation.

Sec. 3. Definitions.

This section defines key terms used throughout the bill (like “critical mineral,” “department,” etc.).

Title I – Critical Minerals Innovation Partnership Program.

Sec. 101. Establishment.

This section establishes the Critical Minerals Innovation Partnership Program within the Department of State to support development and adoption of innovative critical mineral technologies through partnerships with allied countries and eligible entities. Requires the Secretary of State to appoint a Director to oversee administration and implementation of the program.

Sec. 102. Eligibility.

This section authorizes the Secretary of State to determine eligible participating countries and entities based on strategic importance, capability, and alignment with U.S. interests. Eligible entities include universities, nonprofits, federally funded research centers, private-sector companies, and consortia, while foreign entities of concern are prohibited from participating.

Sec. 103. Notification and briefing.

This section requires the Director to notify and brief the appropriate congressional committees at least 30 days before entering into a partnership under the program. Also requires transmission of the text of the proposed partnership agreement.

Sec. 104. Elements.

This section requires each partnership agreement to include objectives, responsibilities, benchmarks, implementation plans, and oversight mechanisms. Partnerships must also address intellectual property allocation, dispute resolution procedures, treatment of sensitive information, and processes for solicited and unsolicited proposals.

Sec. 105. Responsibilities of Director.

This section outlines the Director's responsibilities, including coordinating international partnerships, developing supply chain strategies, facilitating joint research and funding initiatives, and promoting secure data sharing and standards alignment. Also authorizes the Director to coordinate financing tools, receive unsolicited proposals, establish overseas country teams, and enter into contracts, grants, and cooperative agreements.

Sec. 106. Staff.

This section authorizes the Director to make direct-hire appointments for experts and highly qualified personnel needed to carry out the program. Also permits personnel details between the program and other federal agencies.

Title II – Related Matters.

Sec. 201. International Centers of Excellence for Innovative Critical Minerals Supply Chain Technologies.

This section directs the Secretary of State to seek establishment of international centers focused on innovative and responsible critical mineral extraction, processing, and recycling technologies. The centers may support applied research, pilot projects, regulatory assistance, workforce training, environmental monitoring, and supply chain transparency initiatives.

Sec. 202. Digital platform.

This section requires establishment of a publicly accessible digital platform to centralize information on funding opportunities, solicitations, pilot projects, and collaborative initiatives under the program. The platform is also intended to support participation by startups, small businesses, research institutions, and venture-backed companies.

Sec. 203. Sense of Congress provisions.

This section encourages coordination between the program and the National Science and Technology Council to identify priority areas for international cooperation and implementation planning. Also encourages coordination with the National Defense Technology and Industrial Base Council to accelerate commercialization and deployment of technologies developed through the program.

Sec. 204. Assistance for science and technology cooperation; limitations.

This section amends the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to authorize assistance for international science and technology cooperation related to critical minerals, energy technologies, advanced manufacturing, recycling, geological mapping, biotechnology, and commercialization activities. Authorizes the Secretary of State to transfer appropriated funds to support allied partnerships and requires congressional notification before obligating assistance funds.

Title III – Sunset.

Sec. 301. Termination of authority.

This section terminates the authorities and amendments established under the Act 10 years after enactment.

Sec. 302. Continuation of existing agreements.

This section provides that existing partnerships, agreements, grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements entered into before the termination date may continue after the Act expires. Also permits continued administrative and oversight activities necessary to close out agreements.

Sec. 303. Use of funds after termination.

This section authorizes funds obligated before the termination date to continue being expended for their originally authorized purposes after the Act expires.