

## **Legislation to Suspend Normal Trade Relations Treatment for the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus, and for other Purposes**

**Findings:** The Act recognizes that Ukraine is a sovereign nation-state entitled to enter into agreements with other sovereign states and to full respect of its territorial integrity. It recounts Congress’s decision to permanently extend the tariff rates that the United States applies to World Trade Organization (WTO) Members (“normal trade relations”) to the Russian Federation in 2012 (as Russia was completing the process of joining the WTO).

### **I. Suspension of Normal Trade Relations with Russia and Belarus**

- Suspends preferential tariffs applied under “normal trade relations” treatment for the products of the Russian Federation and Belarus, from the day after enactment.
- Subjects products of the Russian Federation and Belarus to non-preferential tariff rates on the same date.
- Empowers the President, until January 1, 2024, to proclaim even higher tariff rates for particular products of the Russian Federation and Belarus, after advance notice to Congress and an explanation of the basis for and potential impact of the increased tariffs.

### **II. Temporary or Permanent Restoration of Normal Trade Relations with the Russian Federation and Belarus**

- Temporary Restoration: Authorizes the President to restore preferential (MFN) tariff rates to products from both the Russian Federation and Belarus, either temporarily for one year at a time or permanently, if consultation, reporting, and certification provisions are satisfied:
  - Consultation & Reporting: The President must consult with Ways & Means and Senate Finance, as well as prepare a report, explaining the basis for his decision to restore normal trade relations **45 days** prior to certification.
  - Certification: The President must certify to Ways & Means and Senate Finance that one or both countries:
    - has reached an agreement relating to the respective withdrawal of Russian or Belarusian forces and cessation of military hostilities that is accepted by the free and independent government of Ukraine;
    - poses no immediate military threat of aggression to any NATO member; and
    - recognizes the right of the people of Ukraine to independently and freely choose their own government.
  - Joint Resolution of Disapproval: The President’s certification may only take effect if Congress does not issue a Joint Resolution of Disapproval within **90 days** after the date of such certification.

### **III. Cooperation and Accountability at the World Trade Organization**

- Provides that the United States shall use its voice and influence at the WTO to:
  - Condemn the recent aggression against Ukraine;
  - Encourage other WTO Members to suspend trade concessions to the Russian Federation and Belarus in their respective domestic laws;
  - Consider further steps with a view to suspend the Russian Federation's participation at the WTO; and
  - Seek to halt all work at the WTO regarding Belarus' accession application.

### **IV. Modifications to and Reauthorization of Sanctions Under the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act with Respect to Human Rights Violations** (Foreign Affairs Committee jurisdiction)

- Permanently reauthorizes the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act and allows for the imposition of sanctions on individuals directly or indirectly engaged in serious human rights violations.