

H.R. 7521, United States-Cuba Trade Act

Sponsor: Representative James P. McGovern

Senate companion: S.136 (Wyden, Merkley)

Summary: Dismantles the main statutory pillars of the U.S. embargo on Cuba by repealing or disabling key embargo/sanctions authorities and removing Cuba-specific trade restrictions, while preserving the President's ability to impose future restrictions only in response to a new national emergency based on an "unusual and extraordinary threat." It also authorizes telecom operations, prohibits regulation of lawful travel, extends normal trade relations tariff treatment to Cuban products and prohibits caps.

Provisions

- **Removes the primary authority for the President to maintain a total trade embargo on Cuba** by repealing Section 620(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.
- **Effectively ends the regulatory basis for the Cuban Assets Control Regulations** by terminating authorities under the Trading With the Enemy Act regarding Cuba.
- **Eliminates the codification of the embargo and legal obstacles to property-related transactions** by repealing Helms-Burton (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996.
- **Deletes restrictions on trade and limits on the entry of vessels into U.S. ports that have recently traded with Cuba** by repealing the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992.
- **Removes Cuba-specific restrictions on agricultural and medical exports** by amending the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000.
- **Removes the ban on Cuba's participation in the U.S. sugar program** by repealing the Sugar Quota prohibition in the Food Security Act of 1985.
- **Ends restrictions on the registration or renewal of certain Cuban-related trademarks** by repealing Section 211 of the Department of Commerce and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1999.
- **Provide direct telecommunications services between the two nations** by authorizing U.S. common carriers to install and maintain telecommunications facilities in Cuba.
- **Protects the right to travel** by prohibiting the government from regulating or banning travel to Cuba if the activity is otherwise lawful for U.S. citizens.
- **Promotes settlement of outstanding property claims by U.S. nationals and the protection of internationally recognized human rights** by directing the President to negotiate with the Government of Cuba.

- **Extends nondiscriminatory (normal trade relations) tariff treatment to Cuban products by amending the Harmonized Tariff Schedule, repealing Cuba-specific tariff provisions and ending application of Title IV of the Trade Act of 1974 to Cuba.**
- **Prohibits the Treasury Department from limiting remittances to Cuba.**
- **Requires the President to submit a report to Congress on U.S.–Cuba trade relations within 18 months of enactment.**