



(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

To modify the requirements for candidate countries under the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. CASTRO of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To modify the requirements for candidate countries under the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Millennium Challenge
5 Corporation Candidate Country Reform Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. MODIFICATIONS OF REQUIREMENTS TO BECOME A**
2 **CANDIDATE COUNTRY.**

3 Section 606 of the Millennium Challenge Act of 2003
4 (22 U.S.C. 7705) is amended to read as follows:

5 **“SEC. 606. CANDIDATE COUNTRIES.**

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A country shall be a candidate
7 country for purposes of eligibility to receive assistance
8 under section 605 if—

9 “(1) the per capita income of the country in a
10 fiscal year is equal to or less than the World Bank
11 threshold for initiating the International Bank for
12 Reconstruction and Development graduation process
13 for the fiscal year; and

14 “(2) subject to subsection (b), the country is
15 not ineligible to receive United States economic as-
16 sistance under part I of the Foreign Assistance Act
17 of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) by reason of the
18 application of any provision of the Foreign Assist-
19 ance Act of 1961 or any other provision of law.

20 “(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—For the purposes of
21 determining whether a country is eligible, pursuant to sub-
22 section (a)(2), to receive assistance under section 605, the
23 exercise by the President, the Secretary of State, or any
24 other officer or employee of the United States Government
25 of any waiver or suspension of any provision of law re-
26 ferred to in subsection (a)(2), and notification to the ap-

1 appropriate congressional committees in accordance with
2 such provision of law, shall be construed as satisfying the
3 requirements under subsection (a).

4 “(c) DETERMINATION BY THE BOARD.—The Board
5 shall determine whether a country is a candidate country
6 for purposes of this section.”.

7 **SEC. 3. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.**

8 (a) AMENDMENT TO REPORT IDENTIFYING CAN-
9 DIDATE COUNTRIES.—Section 608(a)(1) of the Millen-
10 nium Challenge Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7707(a)(1)) is
11 amended by striking “section 606(a)(1)(B)” and inserting
12 “section 606(a)(2)”.

13 (b) AMENDMENT TO MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE COM-
14 PACT AUTHORITY.—Section 609(b)(2) of such Act (22
15 U.S.C. 7708(b)(2)) is amended—

16 (1) by amending the paragraph heading to read
17 as follows: “COUNTRY CONTRIBUTIONS”; and

18 (2) by striking “with respect to a lower middle
19 income country described in section 606(b),”.

20 (c) AMENDMENT TO AUTHORIZATION TO PROVIDE
21 ASSISTANCE FOR CANDIDATE COUNTRIES.—Section
22 616(b)(1) of such Act (22 U.S.C. 7715(b)(1)) is amended
23 by striking “subsection (a) or (b) of section 606” and in-
24 serting “section 606(a)”.

1 **SEC. 4. MODIFICATION TO FACTORS IN DETERMINING ELI-**
2 **GIBILITY.**

3 Section 607(c)(2) of the Millennium Challenge Act of
4 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7706(c)(2)) is amended in the matter
5 preceding subparagraph (A) by striking “consider” and
6 inserting “prioritize need and impact by considering”.