

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2697

AN ACT

To establish the position of the United States Ambassador
for ASEAN Affairs.

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 “United States Amba-
5 sador for ASEAN Affairs Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress makes the following findings:

3 (1) The Association of Southeast Asian Nations
4 (referred to in this Act as “ASEAN”) was estab-
5 lished in 1967, with an initial membership of Indo-
6 nesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and
7 Thailand.

8 (2) ASEAN is committed to accelerating eco-
9 nomic growth, social progress, cultural development
10 and regional peace and stability.

11 (3) The membership of ASEAN has expanded
12 to 10 countries since its establishment in 1967.

13 (4) The United States seeks to maintain and
14 further develop a constructive and cordial relation-
15 ship with ASEAN.

16 (5) The countries comprising ASEAN—

17 (A) constitute the 3rd largest export mar-
18 ket for United States products;

19 (B) have received nearly \$90,000,000,000
20 in direct investment from United States
21 sources; and

22 (C) are developing an integrated free trade
23 area.

24 (6) Trade between the United States and the
25 countries comprising ASEAN totals approximately
26 \$130,000,000,000.

1 (7) ASEAN continues to contribute to regional
 2 stability in East Asia and has partnered with the
 3 United States to combat global terror.

4 (8) In 2006, approximately 38,000 students
 5 from the countries comprising ASEAN were study-
 6 ing in the United States.

7 (9) The countries comprising ASEAN share a
 8 common concern with the United States regarding—

9 (A) the spread of avian influenza and other
 10 diseases; and

11 (B) environmental issues, such as the pres-
 12 ervation of biodiversity and the prevention of il-
 13 legal logging.

14 (10) It is in the long-term interest of the
 15 United States to maintain and expand a relationship
 16 with ASEAN.

17 (11) The United States does not have an Am-
 18 bassador to ASEAN, which limits the ability of the
 19 United States and ASEAN to respond quickly and
 20 appropriately to events of mutual interest.

21 **SEC. 3. UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR FOR ASEAN.**

22 (a) APPOINTMENT.—There is established in the De-
 23 partment of State the position of United States Amba-
 24 sador for ASEAN Affairs, who shall be appointed by the
 25 President, subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.

1 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
2 gress that a Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East
3 Asia and the Pacific should be designated as the Amba-
4 sador for ASEAN Affairs.

Passed the Senate September 7 (legislative day, Sep-
tember 6), 2006.

Attest:

Secretary.

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