

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 Ambas-
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; and22 (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.

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

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 Ambas-
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 Ambas-
4 sador for ASEAN Affairs.

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

Attest:

Secretary.

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