

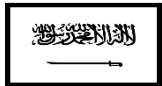
# Senate and House unanimously passes bill to allow U.S. courts to hear cases against foreign governments

## Details of the Justice Against Sponsored Terrorism Act (JASTA)

S. 2040 and H.R. 3815



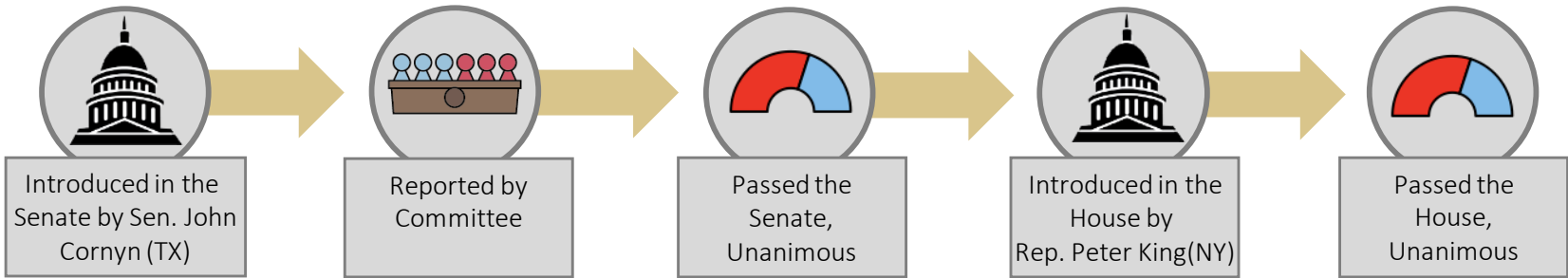
1. The White House has expressed disapproval of the bill noting that the act would put American citizens and corporations at legal risk because many nations could pass legislation similar to JASTA and allow cases against the US to be heard.



2. The Saudi Arabian Government has threatened to sell hundreds of billion dollars worth of US assets if Congress passes this bill. However, several outside economists have claimed that this is unlikely because the Saudi Arabian riyal is pegged to the US dollar.

**Details of the Bill**

- This bill would amend the US judicial code and narrow the scope of foreign sovereign immunity offered under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act
- Despite threatening to veto the bill, Congress is expected to garner enough support to overturn the President's veto
- Some electoral analysts are worried that this divide between the President and the Democratic party could embarrass them in the upcoming 2016 election



Sources: National Journal, "Hurdles remain for 9/11 lawsuit bill" May 17, 2016; Dilayorganci, "Comment," Noun Project; Congress.gov, "S.2040-Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act" May 17,2016; New York Times "Saudi Arabia warns of economic fallout if Congress passes 9/11 bill", April 15, 2016; The Hill, "House unanimously passes bill allowing 9/11 lawsuits against Saudi Arabia," September 9, 2016.