

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8820

To limit the use of certain funds for the deactivation of Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigades, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 14, 2026

Mr. LUTTRELL (for himself, Mr. TRAN, and Mr. CRANK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To limit the use of certain funds for the deactivation of Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigades, 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 “Prohibit Deactivation
5 of the ECABs Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR DEACTIVATION**
7 **OF EXPEDITIONARY COMBAT AVIATION BRI-**
8 **GADES.**

9 (a) LIMITATION.—None of the funds authorized to
10 be appropriated or otherwise made available for any of fis-

1 cal years 2027 through 2031 for the Army may be obli-
2 gated or expended to retire, deactivate, schedule to deacti-
3 vate, or proceed with any other action that would reduce
4 the capabilities, resources, aircraft, or personnel available,
5 as of the date of the enactment of this Act, for the Expedi-
6 tionary Combat Aviation Brigades unless the Secretary of
7 the Army submits to the congressional defense commit-
8 tees—

9 (1) a certification that the Secretary of the
10 Army plans to recapitalize any such aircraft for the
11 Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigades and to oth-
12 erwise restore any such capabilities, resources, or
13 personnel levels reduced; and

14 (2) the plan of the Secretary of the Army for
15 the actions specified in paragraph (1).

16 (b) REQUIREMENT TO RESTORE.—

17 (1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than one year
18 after the date of the enactment of this Act, for any
19 Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigade that, prior
20 to such date of enactment, the Secretary of the
21 Army retired or deactivated (or carried out any
22 other activity to reduce the capabilities, resources,
23 aircraft, or personnel thereof), the Secretary of the
24 Army shall reinstate or reactivate such brigade, or

1 otherwise restore such brigade to the levels pre-
2 ceding such reduction, as the case may be.

3 (2) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the
4 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
5 the Army shall submit to the congressional defense
6 committees a report on the implementation of this
7 subsection.

8 (c) PLAN REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after
9 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
10 the Army shall submit to the congressional defense com-
11 mittees a plan to sustain and modernize the aircraft used
12 by the Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigades.

13 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
14 authorized to be appropriated to the Department of the
15 Army for the operation of aircraft, and training for such
16 operation, by the Expeditionary Combat Aviation Brigades
17 \$35,000,000 for fiscal year 2027.

18 (e) CONGRESSIONAL DEFENSE COMMITTEES DE-
19 FINED.—In this section, the term “congressional defense
20 committees” has the meaning given such term in section
21 101 of title 10, United States Code.

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