

Summary

Bill To Establish an Independent Commission on Intelligence about Iraq

The legislation would establish an Independent Commission on Intelligence about Iraq. The Commission would:

- Examine executive branch efforts to collect, assess, and interpret intelligence regarding the various threats posed by Iraq;
- Examine public representations made by executive branch officials regarding these threats;
- Examine the effectiveness of international collaborative efforts to collect, assess, and interpret information about these threats;
- Review the findings and conclusions of other congressional or executive branch investigations to build on such investigations; and
- Report to Congress within 18 months on its findings and conclusions, as well as make recommendations on measures to enhance the accuracy of intelligence and public representations regarding that intelligence in the future.

The Commission would be modeled after the 9/11 Commission. It would have ten bipartisan members. Following the model of the 9/11 Commission, half of the members would be appointed by the President and the majority leaders in the House and Senate and half would be appointed by the minority leaders in the House and Senate.

The Commission would have authority to call hearings, obtain documents and testimony, issue subpoenas, and examine the actions of both the current and past Administrations. It would have access to classified information and would be able to hire staff with appropriate security clearances. The Commission would be able to recommend that the House and Senate Intelligence Committees vote to declassify any information the Commission determines is in the public interest to be made available to the public.