

February 7, 2007

H.R. 365 – Methamphetamine Remediation Research Act of 2007

Floor Situation

H.R. 365 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Bart Gordon (D-TN) on January 24, 2007. The bill was ordered to be reported from the Committee on Science and Technology on January 24, 2007.

H.R. 365 is expected to be considered on February 7, 2007.

Summary

H.R. 365 requires the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (The Administrator) to establish voluntary guidelines for the remediation of former methamphetamine laboratories. These voluntary guidelines are required to assist State and local governments in the development and implementation of policies to apply state-of-the-art knowledge and research results to the remediation of former methamphetamine laboratories.

Specifically, these voluntary guidelines must consider:

- Relevant standards, guidelines, and requirements found in Federal, State, and local laws and regulations;
- The varying types and locations of former methamphetamine laboratories; and,
- The expected cost of carrying out any proposed guidelines.

The Administrator may periodically update the voluntary guidelines to include new developments and technology in the remediation of methamphetamine laboratories.

No later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act, and at least every third year thereafter, the Administrator must convene a special conference to provide information on the guidelines developed under this Act and on the latest findings from research.

Within 6 months after the enactment of this Act, the Administrator must enter into an arrangement with the National Academy of Sciences for a study on the status and quality of research on the residual effects of methamphetamine laboratories.

The study must focus its attention on the impacts of methamphetamine on:

- The residents of buildings where such laboratories are, or were, located, with particular emphasis given to biological impacts on children; and,
- First responders.

The Director of National Institute of Standards and Technology, in accordance with the Administrator, must support a research program to develop:

- New methamphetamine detection technologies, with emphasis on field test kits and site detection; and,
- Appropriate standard reference materials and validation procedures for methamphetamine detection testing.

The bill authorizes to the Environmental Protection Agency \$1.75 million for each of the fiscal years 2007 and 2008. H.R. 365 authorizes to the National Institute of Standards and Technology \$750,000 for each of the fiscal years 2007 and 2008.

Background

According to the DEA, for every pound of methamphetamine produce it can yield up to 5 pounds of toxic waste. The average cost to clean up a methamphetamine laboratory ranges between \$2,000 and \$3,000. However, this does not include the ancillary costs of cleaning up a former laboratory.

According to the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), 1,136 convictions were handed down in methamphetamine-related cases between October 1, 2004 and January 11, 2005. Between January 12, 2005 and September 30, 2005, 3,703 convictions were handed down in methamphetamine-related cases. Of these, more than 95 percent were trafficking related.

Previous Legislation

The Comprehensive Drug Abuse Prevention and Control Act of 1970 classified methamphetamine as a Schedule II narcotic and the Comprehensive Methamphetamine Control Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-237) classified the chemicals that are used to produce methamphetamine as controlled.

On March 9, 2006, President Bush signed the USA PATRIOT Improvement and Reauthorization Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-177), which included provisions to strengthen Federal, state, and local efforts to combat the spread of methamphetamine.

Additional Information

[Drug Enforcement Agency – Methamphetamine Resources Page](#)

[Office of National Drug Control Policy – Methamphetamine Resources Page](#)

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