



H.R. 1955 - Violent Radicalization and Homegrown Terrorism Prevention Act of 2007

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 1955 is being considered on the floor by suspending the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Jane Harman (D-CA) on April 19, 2007. The Homeland Security Committee approved the bill, as amended, by voice vote on July 17, 2007.

H.R. 1955 is expected to be considered on October 23, 2007.

Note: This legislation significantly incorporates the Preventing Radicalism by Exploring and Vetting its Emergence as a National Threat (PREVENT) Act (H.R. 1695), legislation introduced by Rep. Dave Reichert on March 26, 2007

SUMMARY

H.R. 1955 establishes the National Commission on the Prevention of Violent Radicalization and Ideologically Based Violence to examine and report on the causes of violent radicalization, homegrown terrorism, and ideologically based violence in the U.S. The Commission will consist of 10 members, appointed for the duration of the Commission, by the President, the Secretary of Homeland Security, leadership of both parties in the House and Senate, and the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the House and Senate Homeland Security Committees.

The Commission must issue a final report (as well as two interim reports) detailing the findings, conclusions, and legislative recommendations to counter violent radicalization and homegrown terrorism, including a recommendation on the feasibility of a Homeland Security Department grant program to prevent and disrupt radicalization and terrorism at home. The Commission shall terminate 30 days after issuing its final report.

The bill establishes a university-based Center of Excellence for the Study of Violent Radicalization and Homegrown Terrorism in the United States to study the social, criminal, political, psychological, and economic roots of violent radicalization and homegrown terrorism (or the Homeland Security Secretary can designate an existing Center).

It also directs the Secretaries of Homeland Security and State to survey the strategies used by other countries and utilize these strategies where appropriate in developing U.S. national policy for addressing radicalization and homegrown terrorism.

In carrying out its efforts to combat ideologically based violence and homegrown terrorism, the Department of Homeland Security shall not violate rights of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents, remain committed to racial neutrality, and implement an auditing mechanism to ensure compliance with protecting civil rights and liberties.

BACKGROUND

The House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing, and Terrorism Risk Assessment held a hearing on “Radicalization, Information Sharing and Community Outreach: Protecting the Homeland from Homeland Terror” on April 5, 2007. While there has not been a terrorist attack on U.S. soil since 9/11, numerous alleged terrorists rings and terrorist plots have been uncovered, including incidents at the NY/NJ Path Tunnel, Fort Dix, NJ, and the Sears Tower in Chicago, IL.

According to the April 2006 National Intelligence Estimate, “a large body of all-source reporting indicates that activists identifying themselves as jihadists, although a small percentage of Muslims, are increasing in both number and geographic dispersion. If this trend continues, threats to US interests at home and abroad will become more diverse, leading to increasing attacks worldwide.” ([National Intelligence Estimate](#), April 2006)

COST

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that “implementing H.R. 1955 would cost \$22 million over the 2008-2012 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts.” ([CBO Estimate for H.R. 1955](#), 9/17/2007)

STAFF CONTACT

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