



Legislative Bulletin.....May 8, 2014

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H. Res. 567 — Providing for the Establishment of the Select Committee on the Events Surrounding the 2012 Terrorist Attack in Benghazi (Sessions, R-TX)

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Order of Business: H. Res. 567 is expected to be considered on the House floor on May 8, 2014, subject to a rule being adopted. The [closed rule](#) provides one hour of debate, and is expected to be adopted on May 8, 2014.

Summary: [H. Res. 567](#) establishes a Select Committee regarding the terrorist attack that occurred in Benghazi, Libya, on September 11, 2012.

The Speaker is tasked with appointing Members to serve on the Select Committee, made up of 12 members, five of whom will be appointed after consultation with the Minority Leader. This should result in a Select Committee comprised of 7 Republicans and 5 Democrats, although the text of the resolution does not specify a partisan makeup of the Select Committee.

The Select Committee is charged to “conduct a full and complete study and issue a final report” regarding:

1. “All policies decisions, and activities that contributed” to the Benghazi attack as well as policies decisions, and activities “that affected the ability of the United States to prepare for the attacks;”
2. “All policies, decisions, and activities to respond to and repel the attacks” and the rescue effort;
3. Executive branch communications about the attacks;
4. “Accountability for policies and decisions related to security” and the response to the attacks;
5. The efforts to “identify and bring to justice the perpetrators;”
6. “Executive branch activities and efforts to comply with Congressional inquiries;”
7. “Recommendations for improving executive branch cooperation and compliance with congressional oversight and investigations;”
8. “Information related to lessons learned from the attacks and executive branch activities and efforts to protect United States facilities and personnel abroad;” and
9. Any other relevant information.

The Select Committee is provided [subpoena and deposition authority](#). The Select Committee, including staff, will have access to classified information and must properly handle such information. All records regarding the Benghazi attacks currently in the custody of the standing Committees of the House must be transferred to the Select Committee.

The resolution provides that the Select Committee will be staffed by current employees of the House “to the greatest extent practicable,” and provides that staff may be detailed to the Select Committee. To cover the expenses of the Select Committee, the resolution provides that “there shall be paid out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives such sums as may be necessary.”

The Select Committee will be dissolved 30 days after filing its final report. There is no final deadline by which the report must be filed.

Additional Background:

April 2013 [Five-Committee Interim Progress Report](#) on the Investigation

The House Armed Services Committee:

- March 2013 [Fact Sheet](#)
- March 2013 [Hearing The Posture of the U.S. European Command and U.S. Africa Command](#)
- Feb. 2014 [HASC Interim Report](#)
- [Additional information from the HASC](#)

The House Foreign Affairs Committee:

- Nov. 2012 [Hearing Benghazi and Beyond: What Went Wrong on September 11, 2012 and How to Prevent it from Happening at other Frontline Posts, Part I](#)
- Dec. 2012 [Hearing Benghazi Attack, Part II: The Report of the Accountability Review Board](#)
- Jan. 2013 [Hearing: Terrorist Attack in Benghazi: The Secretary of State’s View](#)
- July 2013 [Hearing: The Terrorist Threat in North Africa: Before and After Benghazi](#)
- Sept. 2013 [Hearing Where is the State Department Accountability?](#)
- Feb. 2014 [Report on lack of State Department Accountability for Benghazi Attacks](#)

The House Oversight and Government Reform Committee:

- Oct. 2012 [Hearing The Security Failures of Benghazi](#)
- May 2013 [Hearing Benghazi: Exposing Failure and Recognizing Courage](#)
- Sept. 2013 [Interim Report on the Accountability Review Board](#)
- Sept. 2013 [Hearing Reviews of the Benghazi Attack and Unanswered Questions](#)
- May 2014 [Hearing Benghazi, Instability, and a New Government: Successes and Failures of U.S. Intervention in Libya](#)

House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:

- [Timeline of HPSCI Investigation](#)
- Jan. 2014 [HPSCI Investigation Update](#)
- April 2014 [Hearing The Benghazi Talking Points and Michael J. Morell's Role in Shaping the Administration's Narrative](#)
- [Additional information from the HPSCI](#)

Committee Action: H. Res. 567 was introduced by Rep. Sessions on May 6, 2014, and was then referred to the Rules Committee. The Committee held a [markup](#) of the resolution on May 7, 2014, where it was reported by a 7 – 4 vote.

Administration Position: None available at press time.

Cost to Taxpayers: A CBO report is not available, but the Select Committee will use funds that have already been appropriated. Sec. 5(c) of H. Res. 567 states:

“There shall be paid out of the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives such sums as may be necessary for the expenses of the Select Committee. Such payments shall be made on vouchers signed by the chair of the Select Committee and approved in the manner directed by the Committee on House Administration. Amounts made available under this subsection shall be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Committee on House Administration.”

Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any Federal Encroachment into State or Local Authority in Potential Violation of the 10th Amendment?: No.

Does the Bill Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?: No.

Does the Bill Contain Any Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?: No.

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