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S. 1492 — A bill to direct the Administrator of General Services, on behalf of the Archivist of the United States, to convey certain Federal property located in the State of Alaska to the Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska (Sen. Sullivan, R-AK)

CONTACT: [Matt Dickerson](#), 202-226-9718

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

May 16, 2016 under a suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[S. 1492](#) would authorize the National Archives and Records Administration to sell property in Anchorage, Alaska, to the city at fair market value.

COST:

The [Congressional Budget Office](#) (CBO) estimates that enacting S. 1492 would have “no net effect on direct spending over the 2016-2025 period. Enacting the bill would not affect revenues.” CBO expected the agency would sell the property sometime within the next ten years. Proceeds from the sale would be used for deficit reduction.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

In 2014, the National Archives and Records Administration announced that it was closing its operations in Anchorage, Alaska. S. 1492 would direct the Administration to sell a parcel of land the City of Anchorage at fair market value.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

S. 1492 was introduced by Senator Dan Sullivan on June 3, 2015, and referred to the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. The Committee marked up and reported the bill on December 9, 2015. The Senate passed the bill by unanimous consent on April 6, 2016, by unanimous consent.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

Bills that originate in the Senate do not require a constitutional authority statement.

H.R. 3832 — Stolen Identify Refund Fraud Prevention Act of 2015 (Rep. Renacci, R-OH)

CONTACT: [Matt Dickerson](#), 202-226-9718

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

May 16, 2016 under a suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 3832](#) would require the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to take additional steps to prevent and respond to taxpayer identity theft and identity theft related tax return fraud.

COST:

The [Congressional Budget Office](#) (CBO) estimates that enacting H.R. 3832 would “cost about \$2 million annually or \$10 million over the 2017-2021 period”, subject to the appropriation of funds. The bill includes a provision clarifying that no additional funds are authorized to be appropriated.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** The IRS would be required to take additional actions to prevent identity theft taxpayer return fraud.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

The bill would require the IRS to establish and maintain an office to serve as a centralized point of contact for taxpayers whose returns have been delayed or affected due to identity theft.

If the IRS determines that an unauthorized use of a taxpayer identity occurs, it would then be required to notify the taxpayer, including instructions for how to file a police report and the forms the taxpayer must submit to allow investigators to access the taxpayer’s personal information. The IRS would also notify a taxpayer if a person is criminally charged with using their identity without authorization.

The IRS would be required to conduct a study on the feasibility of a program to allow a taxpayer who has had their identity stolen to prevent the processing of tax returns in electronic format by the taxpayer or anyone purporting to be the taxpayer.

The bill would require the IRS to take part in the “Do Not Pay Initiative”, which requires agencies to conduct a review of available databases (such as the [Death Master File](#)) before releasing payments in an effort to prevent improper payments.

The bill would require the IRS to report to Congress on identity theft tax return fraud.

The bill would require the IRS to establish an information sharing and analysis center to facilitate information sharing regarding taxpayer return fraud with state and local governments as well as the private sector (such as tax preparation and software firms).

The bill would require the IRS to establish a local law enforcement liaison.

The bill would require the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, in consultation with the Federal Communications Commission, to report to Congress regarding telephone scams involving persons impersonating IRS officials.

The bill would require the IRS to play messages about current or common taxpayer identity theft schemes to taxpayers who are on hold with the IRS waiting for service over the phone.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 3832 was introduced on October 26, 2015, and referred to the Ways and Means Committee. The Committee marked up and reported the bill on [April 28, 2016](#), by a voice vote.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

“Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States. Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.”

S. 2143 — To provide for the authority for the successors and assigns of the Starr-Camargo Bridge Company to maintain and operate a toll bridge across the Rio Grande near Rio Grande City, Texas, and for other purposes (Sen. Cornyn, R-TX)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on May 16, under a suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 majority for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[S. 2143](#) would amend and extend existing authority for the Starr-Camargo Bridge Company to operate a private toll-bridge between the United States and Mexico.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that enacting S. 2143 would not affect the federal budget. Because direct spending or revenues would not be affected, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply. CBO estimates that enacting S. 2143 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2027.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

No substantive concerns.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

S. 2143 would permanently extend the authority for the Starr-Camargo Bridge Company to maintain and operate a toll bridge across the Rio Grande near Rio Grande City, Texas, and to expand the number of lanes on that bridge. According to CBO, “under current law, the Starr-Camargo Bridge Company has the authority, through 2032, to operate a private toll-bridge between the United States and Mexico.”

The Senate report (S. Rept. 114-213) accompanying S. 2143 can be found [here](#).

COMMITTEE ACTION:

S. 2143 was introduced on October 06, 2015 and was referred to the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works. On March 17, 2016, the bill passed the Senate amended by unanimous consent. The bill was then referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, which reported it by unanimous consent on April 20, 2016.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

Bills that originate in the Senate do not require a constitutional authority statement.

H. Con. Res. 88 — Reaffirming the Taiwan Relations Act and the Six Assurances as cornerstones of United States–Taiwan relations, as amended (Rep. Chabot, R-OH)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on May 16, 2016 suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H. Con. Res. 88](#) would express the sense of Congress Reaffirming the [Taiwan Relations Act](#) and the Six Assurances as the cornerstone of United States–Taiwan relations.

COST:

No Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is available.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

There are no substantive concerns.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H. Con Res. 88 would express a sense of Congress that affirming that the Taiwan Relations Act and the [Six Assurances](#) are both cornerstones of United States relations with Taiwan; and would urge the President and Department of State to affirm the Six Assurances publicly, proactively, and consistently as a cornerstone of United States-Taiwan relations.

According to the findings of the bill, “on January 1, 1979, when the Carter Administration established diplomatic relations with the People’s Republic of China (PRC), it ended formal diplomatic ties with the Republic of China on Taiwan. [...] The United States Congress acted swiftly to reaffirm the United States-Taiwan relationship with the enactment of the Taiwan Relations Act just 100 days later, ensuring the United States maintained a robust and enduring relationship with Taiwan.”

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H. Con Res. 88 was introduced on October 28, 2015 and was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. On April 20, 2016, the bill was ordered to be reported in the nature of a substitute by unanimous consent.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

No constitutional authority is available.

H.R. 1150 — Frank R. Wolf International Religious Freedom Act, as amended (Rep. Smith, R-NJ)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on May 16, 2016 suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 1150](#) would amend the [International Religious Freedom Act of 1998](#) to modify the Office of International Religious Freedom to locate it within the Office of the Secretary of State, create a new watch list for foreign nations that suppress religious freedom online, and require religious freedom training for members of the Foreign Service.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing those changes would cost \$1 million in 2017, less than \$500,000 each year over the 2018-2021 period, and would total \$2 million over the 2017-2021 period; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply because enacting H.R. 1150 would not affect direct spending or revenues. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 1150 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2027.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

There are no substantive concerns.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 1150 would modify the Office of International Religious Freedom to locate it within the Office of the Secretary of State under an Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom to integrate United States international religious freedom policies and strategies into the foreign policy efforts of the United States. The Ambassador would coordinate international religious freedom policies across all programs, projects, and activities of the United States; and would participate in any interagency processes on issues in which the promotion of international religious freedom policy can advance United States national security interests, including in democracy promotion, stability, security, and development globally.

The legislation would express a sense of Congress that the Secretary of State should consider elevating the office of International Religious Freedom and the position of the Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom to the Office of the Secretary, similar to other Ambassador-at-Large positions that now report directly to the Secretary.

The bill would amend the Ambassador's [Annual Report on International Religious Freedom](#), specifying additional foreign government actions violating religious freedom to include any action taken by the government of that country to censor religious content, communications, or worship activities online, including descriptions of the targeted religious group, the content, communication, or activities censored, and the means used, as well as the persecution of lawyers, politicians, or other human rights advocates. Within the report a special watch list would be created to identify each country that engages in or tolerates

severe violations of religious freedom during the previous year that the president determines does not meet the specified criteria in the report at the time of the publication.

H.R. 1150 would direct the Secretary of State to develop a curriculum for, and the Director of the George P. Shultz National Foreign Affairs Training Center to begin, mandatory training on religious freedom for all Foreign Service officers. The bill would require the Congressionally created [U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom](#) to compile and make publicly available regularly updated lists of persons imprisoned, detained, disappeared, placed under house arrest, tortured, or subject to forced renunciations of faith by: (1) a foreign government recommended for designation as a country of particular concern for religious freedom, or (2) a violent non-state actor.

H.R. 1150 would express a sense of Congress that there should be within the staff of the National Security Council a Special Adviser to the President on International Religious Freedom. The bill would direct the president to: (1) review and identify any non-state actors operating in any such reviewed country or surrounding region that have engaged in particularly severe violations of religious freedom; and (2) designate, each such non-state actor as an entity of particular concern for religious freedom.

The bill would direct the president to: (1) review the status of religious freedom in each foreign country to determine whether the government of that country has engaged in or tolerated particularly severe violations of religious freedom in each such country during the preceding 12 months or longer; and (2) designate each country the government of which has engaged in or tolerated violations as a country of particular concern for religious freedom. The bill would further stipulate that a country designated as a country of particular concern for religious freedom would retain under such designation until the president determines and reports to Congress that the country should no longer be designated so. The president would have the authority to designate as a country of particular concern for religious freedom any country that appears on the Special Watch List in more than 2 consecutive Annual Reports. The president would additionally have waiver authority under specified conditions.

H.R. 1150 would further express a sense of Congress that for each fiscal year that begins on or after the date of the enactment of the bill, the Department of State should make available: (1) an amount equal to not less than 10 percent of the amounts available in that fiscal year for the Human Rights and Democracy Fund for the promotion of international religious freedom and for projects to advance United States interests in the protection and advancement of international religious freedom, in particular, through grants to groups promoting international religious freedom; (2) an amount equal to not less than 2 percent of amounts available in that fiscal year for the Human Rights and Democracy Fund to be made available for the establishment of a Religious Freedom Defense Fund, administered by the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom. The bill would additionally express a sense of Congress that in providing grants, the Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom should give preference to projects targeting religious freedom violations in countries designated as countries of particular concern for religious freedom.

The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Ambassador at Large would establish and maintain a list of foreign individuals who are sanctioned, through visa denials, financial sanctions, or other measures, because they are responsible for ordering, controlling, or otherwise directing particularly severe violations of freedom religion.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 1150 was introduced on February 27, 2015 and was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. On April 20, 2016, the bill was ordered to be reported in the nature of a substitute by unanimous consent.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1, section 8 of the Constitution." No enumerating clause was listed.

H.R. 1887 — A bill to authorize the Comptroller General of the United States to assess a study on the alternatives for the disposition of Plum Island Animal Disease Center, and for other purposes.(Rep. Zeldin, R-NY)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on May 16, 2016 suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 1887](#) would suspend action on a requirement directing the Administrator of General Services to sell Federal property and assets that support the operations of the Plum Island Animal Disease Center in Plum Island, New York, pending a Government Accountability Office study on alternatives to such divestiture.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that H.R. 1887 would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2016-2017 period for GAO to prepare the report required by H.R. 1887; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Based on information from GSA, we estimate that enacting the bill would not affect the timing of a potential sale of Plum Island. Pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply because enacting the bill would not affect direct spending or revenues. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 1887 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2027.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

There are no substantive concerns.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 1887 would suspend a requirement in section 538 of title V of division D of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2012 ([Public Law 112-74](#)) directing the Administrator of General Services to sell Federal property and assets that support the operations of the [Plum Island Animal Disease Center](#) in Plum Island, New York until at least 180 days after required reports from the bill are submitted to Congress.

The bill would require the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct an assessment of a study by the Department of Homeland Security on the options for the disposition of Plum Island and submit the results to Congress. If GAO determines that the study's methodologies do not adequately support the Department of Homeland Security's findings, GAO would be required to conduct a study on any such issues.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 1887 was introduced on April 16, 2015 and was referred to the House Committee on Homeland Security. On April 28, 2016, the bill was ordered to be reported (amended) by unanimous consent.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article 1, Sections 8 and 9 of the United States Constitution." No enumerating clause was listed.

H.R. 4743 — National Cybersecurity Preparedness Consortium Act of 2016, as amended (Rep. Castro, D-TX)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on May 16, 2016 suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 4743](#) would authorize the Department of Homeland Security to establish a National Cybersecurity Preparedness Consortium to support efforts to address cybersecurity risks and incidents.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that to maintain a similar level of support as is currently provided by the National Cybersecurity Preparedness Consortium (NCPC) to state and local governments, it would cost \$15 million (average of \$3 million per year in new grant funding) over the 2017-2021 period, assuming appropriation of the estimated amounts. Enacting H.R. 4743 would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 4743 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2027.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

There are no substantive concerns.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No. The bill would formally authorize ongoing activities at the Department of Homeland Security that are currently not authorized by law but have received funding in previous years
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 4743 would authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to work with a consortium to assist the national cybersecurity and communications integration center of the Department of Homeland Security to: (1) provide training to State and local first responders and officials specifically for preparing for and responding to cybersecurity risks and incidents, including threats of terrorism and acts of terrorism; (2) develop and update a curriculum utilizing existing programs and models for State and local first responders and officials related to cybersecurity risks and incidents; (3) provide technical assistance services to build and sustain capabilities in support of preparedness for and response to cybersecurity risks; (4) conduct cross-sector cybersecurity training and simulation exercises for entities, including State and local governments, critical infrastructure owners and operators, and private industry; (5) help States and communities develop cybersecurity information sharing programs; (6) help incorporate cybersecurity risk and incident prevention and response into existing State and local emergency plans, including continuity of operations plans.

The Secretary of Homeland Security would be directed to conduct outreach to universities and colleges, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and other minority-serving institutions, regarding opportunities to support efforts to address cybersecurity risks and incidents. The bill's authority would terminate 5 years after its enactment. H.R.

4743 defines “a consortium” as a group primarily composed of nonprofit entities, including academic institutions that develop, update, and deliver cybersecurity training in support of homeland security. The current members of the National Cybersecurity Preparedness Consortium are: (1) the Center for Infrastructure Assurance and Security at the University of Texas – San Antonio; (2) the Texas Engineering Extension Service in the Texas A&M University System; (3) the Criminal Justice Institute in the University of Arkansas System; (4) the University of Memphis; and, (5) Norwhich University Applied Research Institutes.

The House report (H. Rept. 114-565) accompanying H.R. 4743 can be found [here](#).

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 4743 was introduced on March 15, 2016 and was referred to the House Committee on Homeland Security. On May 13, 2016, the bill was ordered to be reported by the committee.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor: “Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Constitutional Authority--Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. I, Sec. 8, Clause 18: The U.S. Constitution Article I, Section 8: Powers of Congress Clause 18; The Congress shall have power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.” No enumerating clause was included.

H.R. 4780 — Department of Homeland Security Strategy for International Programs Act, as amended (Rep. Thompson, D-MS)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on May 16, 2016 suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 4780](#) would direct the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to submit a comprehensive three-year strategy for international programs in which DHS personnel and resources are deployed abroad for vetting and screening persons seeking to enter the United States.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that creating that strategy would cost less than \$500,000; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds. Because enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 4780 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2027.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

There are no substantive concerns.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 4780 would direct the Department of Homeland Security to submit to Congress a comprehensive three-year strategy for international programs of the Department. The strategy would include: (1) specific DHS risk-based goals for international programs of the Department in which personnel and resources are deployed abroad for vetting and screening of persons seeking to enter the United States; (2) a risk-based method for determining whether to establish new international programs in new locations, given resource constraints, or expand existing international programs; (3) an alignment with the highest Department-wide and Government-wide strategic priorities of resource allocations for similar programs; (4) a common reporting framework for the submission of reliable, comparable cost data by DHS components on overseas expenditures attributable to similar programs.

The House report (H. Rept. 114-566) accompanying H.R. 4780 can be found [here](#).

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 4780 was introduced on March 17, 2016 and was referred to the House Committee on Homeland Security. On May 13, 2016, the bill was ordered to be reported by the committee.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8" No enumerating clause was listed.

H.R. 4407 — Counterterrorism Advisory Board Act of 2016, as amended (Rep. Katko, R-NY)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on May 16, 2016 suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 4407](#) would establish a counterterrorism advisory board in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) consisting of senior representatives of operational agencies within the Department.

COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing H.R. 4407 would have no significant effect on DHS spending. Because enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 4407 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2027.

CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

There are no substantive concerns.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 4407 direct DHS to establish a board to be composed of senior representatives of departmental operational components and headquarters elements, to coordinate and integrate departmental intelligence, activities, and policy related to the counterterrorism mission and functions. A charter would be issued to govern the structure and mission of the board, and would direct the board to focus on the current threat environment and the importance of aligning departmental counterterrorism activities under the Secretary's guidance. The charter would be reviewed and updated every four years. The Secretary of Homeland Security would be mandated to appoint a Coordinator for Counterterrorism within the Department who would serve as the chair of the board.

The board would be directed to meet on a regular basis to discuss intelligence and coordinate ongoing threat mitigation efforts and departmental activities, including coordination with other federal, state, local, tribal, territorial, and private sector partners, and would make recommendations to the Secretary; and would advise the Secretary on the issuance of terrorism alerts.

No additional funds would be authorized to carry out the bill.

The House report (114-481) accompanying H.R. 4407 can be found [here](#).

COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 4407 was introduced on February 1, 2016 and was referred to the House Committee on Homeland Security. On April 11, 2016, the bill was ordered to be reported by the committee.

ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 -- To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

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