



## **CONTENTS:**

1. [H.R. 3210 — Securely Expediting Clearances Through Reporting Transparency \(SECRET\) Act of 2017](#)
2. [H.R. 2370 — Escambia County Land Conveyance Act](#)
3. [H.R. 1937 — African American Civil Rights Network Act of 2017](#)
4. [H.Res. 317 – Calling for the unconditional release of United States citizens and legal permanent resident aliens being held for political purposes by the Government of Iran, as amended](#)

# H.R. 3210 – Securely Expediting Clearances Through Reporting Transparency (SECRET) Act of 2017 (Knight, R-CA)

CONTACT: [Noelani Bonifacio](#), 202-226-2076

## FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered July 26, 2017, under suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

## TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 3210](#) would require the National Background Investigations Bureau to submit a report to Congress on the security clearance backlog.

## COST:

No Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is available at this time.

Rule 28(a)(1) of the Rules of the Republican Conference prohibit measures from being scheduled for consideration under suspension of the rules without an accompanying cost estimate. Rule 28(b) provides that the cost estimate requirement may be waived by a majority of the Elected Leadership.

## 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:

It has been [reported](#) that there are significant delays in processing federal background checks for granting security clearances.

H.R. 3210 would require the Director of the National Background Investigations Bureau (NBIB), which falls under the Office of Personnel Management, to submit a report to Congress within 90 days of enactment. The report must include information on the personal security clearance investigation process backlog and the average length of time to carry out an investigation for each respective security level.

NBIB must also submit a report detailing the cost of duplicating resources when implementing [10 U.S.C. 1564 note](#), which established an expedited process for conducting security clearances for certain Department of Defense personnel. This report must be submitted to Congress within 120 days of enactment.

## COMMITTEE ACTION:

This bill was introduced on July 12, 2017. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. A mark-up was held on July 19, 2017, and the bill was reported by voice vote.

## ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

According to the sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
"Article I, Section 8, Clause 18."

# H.R. 2370 — Escambia County Land Conveyance Act (Gaetz, R-FL)

CONTACT: [Noelani Bonifacio](#), 202-226-9719

## FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on July 26, 2017, under suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

## TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 2370](#) would remove the restrictions of a 1946 conveyance of land to Escambia County, Florida, to allow Escambia to re-convey the land but establish conditions to conveyance.

## COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing H.R. 2370 would not result in a cost to the federal government. The bill could affect revenues since funds above the land conveyance costs would be deposited into the general fund, so pay-as-you-go would apply. CBO estimates, however, that the proceeds would not be significant. The bill would not increase direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

## 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:

The bill would remove the restrictions established by the original conveyance of land that was part of the now abolished Santa Rosa Island National Monument in Florida. Under the original conveyance in 1946, Escambia County was required to retain the land and to use the land for purposes deemed to be in the public interest. H.R. 2370 would allow the county to re-convey the land to any person or entity.

Under the original conveyance, the county was allowed to lease the land. H.R. 2370 would prohibit requiring lessees to accept a fee interest in the land in place of the leasehold interest.

As a condition to allowing Escambia County to re-convey the land, the county is required to convey any land within Santa Rosa County to Santa Rosa County within 2 years of enactment. The conveyance must be absolute and terminate all Escambia County regulations on the land. In addition, Escambia County is prohibited from placing conditions on the conveyance except to require Santa Rosa County to pay the actual costs of conveyance. Santa Rosa County is allowed to restrict the re-conveyance of the land to any leaseholder and is allowed to re-convey the land to any person or entity.

The bill allows land owners and leaseholder to pursue annexation, incorporation or other governmental status. The land is also subject to the respective county's jurisdiction.

The proceeds from the conveyance will be considered windfall profits and revert to the U.S. the land that are currently dedicated for conservation, preservation, and public recreation and parking to remain so in perpetuity.

Escambia County and Santa Rosa County are not subject to a deadline to convey or re-convey land under this act.

Currently, Santa Rosa County is involved in a number of [lawsuits](#). Santa Rosa County has issued 99-year leases to the land, as authorized under current law, and charged property taxes to leaseholders. Leaseholders, however, contend that they should not be charged property taxes because they do not own the land. This bill would help to address these disputes.

The House Report (H. Rept. 115-236) accompanying H.R. 2370 can be found [here](#).

**COMMITTEE ACTION:**

H.R. 2370 was introduced on May 4, 2017, where it was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. A mark-up was held on June 27, 2017, and the bill was reported by voice vote.

**ADMINISTRATION POSITION:**

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

**CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:**

According to the bill's sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: "Article IV, Section III, Clause II"."

# H.R. 1927 — African American Civil Rights Network Act of 2017 (Clay, D-MO)

CONTACT: [Noelani Bonifacio](#), 202-226-9719

## FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on July 26, 2017, under suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

## TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 1927](#) would establish the U.S. Civil Rights Network under the National Park Service.

## COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) [estimates](#) that implementing H.R. 1927 would cost less than \$500,000 in the first year. In the following year, the National Park Service would need \$1.5 million annually. Over the 2018-22 period the bill would cost \$6 million and \$1.5 million thereafter, subject to appropriation. The bill would not affect direct spending, or revenues so pay-as-you-go would not apply. The bill specifies that no additional funds are authorized to carry out the requirements of the bill and such requirements shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized.

## CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** The bill would create a U.S. Civil Rights Network within the National Park Service.
- **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:

This bill would add a section to title 54 of the U.S. Code to create a U.S. Civil Rights Network within the National Park Service (NPS). To carry out the U.S. Civil Rights Network, the Secretary of the Interior must: (1) review studies in order to complement, not duplicate, studies of the civil rights movement; (2) produce educational materials related to the civil rights movement; (3) enter into cooperative agreements and memoranda of understanding to provide technical assistance for programs included below; and, (4) create an official symbol.

The U.S. Civil Rights Network will include all civil rights programs under NPS. It will also include all properties that are related to or have a connection to the civil rights movement, including properties that are federally, locally and privately-owned. Privately-owned property will only be included with the consent of the owner. Properties must be included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The U.S. Civil Rights Network will also include other educational and research programs and facilities that are related to the civil rights movement.

The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to enter into cooperative agreements and memoranda of understanding with and provide technical assistance to agencies, state and local governments, and private entities to achieve the purposes of this legislation.

The U.S. Civil Rights Network will expire 7 years after enactment. In addition, no additional funds are authorized to carry out H.R. 1927.

## COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 1927 was introduced on April 5, 2017, where it was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources. A mark-up was held on June 27, 2017, and the bill was reported by unanimous consent.

**ADMINISTRATION POSITION:**

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

**CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:**

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

# H.Res. 317 – Calling for the unconditional release of United States citizens and legal permanent resident aliens being held for political purposes by the Government of Iran, as amended (Ros-Lehtinen, R-FL)

CONTACT: [Brittan Specht](#), 202-226-9143

## FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Expected to be considered on June 26, 2017, under a suspension of the rules, which requires a 2/3 majority for passage.

## TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.Res. 317](#) would express the sense of the House that Iran should immediately release U.S. citizens and residents who have been unjustly detained.

## COST:

Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates are not required for House resolutions.

## 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:

Currently, several U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents are being held by Iran under what are widely considered to be false charges. These include [Siamak and Baquer Namazi](#), [Xiyue Wang](#), and [Nizar Zakka](#). Further, Iran has continued to fail to meet its commitments to provide information as to the whereabouts of [Robert Levinson](#), a former FBI agent who disappeared while traveling in Iran in 2007.

H.Res. 317 would call on Iran to immediately release the Namazis, Wang, and Zakka, as well as any other U.S. citizens or permanent residents who have been unjustly detained. It also calls on Iran to take meaningful steps to fulfill its promises to assist in locating and returning Robert Levinson. The resolution would encourage the president to take meaningful action to secure such releases and actions. It would also request that the U.S. and allied nations who have also had citizens detained by Iran consider forming a multinational taskforce to secure the release of detainees.

## COMMITTEE ACTION:

This resolution was introduced on May 4, 2017, and referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. A subcommittee markup was held by the Subcommittee on Middle East and North Africa.

## ADMINISTRATION POSITION:

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:

Constitutional authority statements are not required for House resolutions.

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