



## H.R. 4749 – NATIONAL BOMBING PREVENTION ACT OF 2008

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 4749 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 Peter King (R-NY) on December 17, 2007. The House Committee on Homeland Security reported the bill, as amended, by voice vote on June 5, 2008.

H.R. 4749 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on June 18, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.R. 4749 amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 and directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish an "Office for Bombing Prevention" within the Protective Security Coordination Division of the Office of Infrastructure Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

#### Responsibilities of the Office

The primary responsibility of the Office is to enhance and coordinate efforts towards deterring, detecting, preventing and responding to explosive terrorist attacks within the U.S. Among other responsibilities, the Office is to:

- Serve as the lead agency of DHS to ensure that programs designed to counter terrorist explosive attacks in the U.S. function together efficiently to meet the evolving threat from explosives and improvised explosive devices;
- Conduct an analysis of the capabilities and requirements necessary for Federal, State, local, and tribal governments to deter, prevent, and respond to terrorist attacks in the U.S.;
- Maintain a national analysis database detailing the capabilities of bomb squads and related response teams and close any identifiable gaps in security; and
- Promote secure information sharing of sensitive material to promote security awareness.

This legislation does not affect the authority of the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in their role as the disaster response agency of DHS.

#### Explosive Device Detection Canine Program

DHS is to partner with other Federal, State, local, and tribal entities to develop a pilot program that includes a domestic breeding program for purpose-bred explosives detection canines and increase the number of detection canines. This program is to be established within 270 days after the enactment of H.R. 4749. The Secretary is to report on the development of this program to Congress within 180 days of this legislation's enactment.

#### National Strategy

The Secretary of DHS is to develop and periodically update a national strategy to prevent and prepare for the occurrence of explosive terrorist attacks within the U.S. The Secretary is to develop this strategy within ninety days of this legislation's enactment and report to Congress detailing this strategy within six months of its development.

#### Technology Availability

The Secretary is to establish a technology transfer program to ensure that military and non-military equipment and information for use in the detection, prevention, and response to explosive terrorist attacks in the U.S. are commercialized and made available for use by Federal, State, local and tribal governments. The Secretary is to establish a working group to advise and assist in the availability of this information.



## Authorization

The bill authorizes \$10 million for fiscal year 2009, \$25 million for fiscal years 2010 through 2012, and such sums as may be necessary for each subsequent year.

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## BACKGROUND

The Homeland Security Act of 2002 (P.L. 107-296) was introduced by Rep. Dick Armey (R-TX) on June 6, 2002. President Bush signed the legislation into law on November 25, 2002. The Act established [DHS](#) as an executive department headed by the Secretary of Homeland Security, to be appointed by the President. The purpose of DHS was to prevent terrorist attacks within the U.S., reduce the vulnerability of the U.S. to acts of violent terrorism, and assist in the recovery from any such attacks. Additionally, DHS is to protect the overall economic security of the U.S. and ensure that it is not threatened or affected by terrorist or other such efforts against it.

Currently, the Transportation Security Laboratory (TSL) of DHS performs research and develops methods to detect and mitigate the threat of improvised explosive devices. TSL is a Department of Homeland Security Federal Laboratory located at the William J. Hughes Technical Center, Atlantic City International Airport, New Jersey, and is a part of the Science and Technology Directorate of DHS.

[FEMA](#) was established as a part of DHS on March 1, 2003. The primary mission of FEMA is to reduce the loss of life and property in wake of disasters occurring in the U.S. and providing the U.S. with a risk-based, comprehensive emergency management system of preparedness before disasters and response, recovery, and mitigation of damages after their occurrence.

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## COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) did not have a current cost estimate for the reported version of H.R. 4749 as of June 17, 2008.

*\*\*\*Note: A CBO cost estimate for H.R. 4749 was included in the bills report, but did not reflect the most recently amended version of the bill.*

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## STAFF CONTACT

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