



## H.R. 1333 – CIVIL AIR PATROL HOMELAND SECURITY SUPPORT ACT OF 2007

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 1333 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 Charlie Dent (R-PA) on March 6, 2007. The House Committee on Homeland Security agreed to the bill, as amended, on May 20, 2008. The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee agreed to the bill, as amended, on May 13, 2008.

H.R. 1333 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on June 18, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.R. 1333 instructs the Comptroller General of the U.S. Government Accountability Office to review the functions of the Civil Air Patrol and how they may support the homeland security missions of State, local, and tribal governments and the Department of Homeland Security.

#### Civil Air Patrol Study

The bill directs the Comptroller General to conduct a study of the functions and capabilities of the Civil Air patrol in supporting the homeland security missions of State, local, and tribal governments, as well as those of the Department of Homeland Security. The study is to review the ability of the Civil Air Patrol to provide aerial reconnaissance or communications support for border security; augment the Department's situational awareness and search-and-rescue capabilities in the aftermath of an act of terrorism, natural disaster, or other catastrophic event; and assist in other activities the Comptroller General determines appropriate for review.

#### Reporting

The Comptroller General is to report to Congress within 180 days of the enactment of H.R. 1333, assessing the feasibility and cost effectiveness of using the Civil Air Patrol in supporting homeland security missions. The report must also assess whether the current mechanisms through which Federal and State agencies request support from the Civil Air Patrol are sufficient or whether these agreements and channels are in need of updating.

The bill requires the Secretary of DHS to submit an additional report to Congress within 90 days of completion of the Comptroller General's Civil Air Patrol Study. The Secretary's report shall include a review of any conclusive findings by the Comptroller General and any recommendations the Secretary may have for further action.

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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 [U.S. Civil Air Patrol](#) (CAP) was established on December 1, 1941. Initially, the CAP was intended to provide general private aviation support to the operations of the American military through liaison and reconnaissance flying. When German submarines engaged American ships off the US coastline during World War II, the CAP expanded its mission and planes began to be armed with bombs and depth charges. The CAP became an auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force by Executive Order in 1943.



# LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

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The CAP was granted a charter by Congress in 1946 and was charged with the missions of promoting aviation, providing training for the future of the CAP, and continuing to serve as an emergency aviation service for the military. Today, the CAP performs 90 percent of the nation's inland search and rescue missions. CAP has more than 56,000 members, including 22,000 cadets ranging between ages 12-21. It is headquartered at Maxwell Air Force base in Alabama.

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## COST

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that it would cost less than \$1 million in Fiscal Year 2009 for the Government Accountability Office and the Department of Homeland Security to complete the reports required by H.R. 1333, as amended.

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## STAFF CONTACT

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