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1ST SESSION

H. R. 490

To require a quadrennial review of the diplomatic strategy and structure of the Department of State and its related agencies to determine how the Department can best fulfill its mission in the 21st century and meet the challenges of a changing world.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 13, 2009

Mr. THORNBERRY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To require a quadrennial review of the diplomatic strategy and structure of the Department of State and its related agencies to determine how the Department can best fulfill its mission in the 21st century and meet the challenges of a changing world.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Quadrennial Foreign
5 Affairs Review Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. QUADRENNIAL FOREIGN AFFAIRS REVIEW.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The Department of State, established in
2 1789, is responsible for representing the worldwide
3 interests of the United States and for advancing the
4 policies of the United States.

5 (2) The Department operates over 250 posts in
6 more than 180 countries throughout the world and
7 has approximately 30,000 personnel.

8 (3) There have been dramatic changes in the
9 world in which the Department must function, in-
10 cluding changes in technology, changes in religious,
11 ethnic, and regional conflicts, and changes in eco-
12 nomic, political, and military relationships. More-
13 over, the world has witnessed the spread of weapons
14 of mass destruction and the spread of terrorism.
15 Yet, there has been little change in the diplomatic
16 strategy and structure of the Department or of its
17 posts throughout the world.

18 (4) The Department and all United States dip-
19 lomatic efforts should be the subject of a quadren-
20 nial review to determine how the Department can
21 best fulfill its mission and meet the challenges of a
22 changing world.

23 (b) QUADRENNIAL REVIEW.—Not later than Sep-
24 tember 30 of 2012 and every four years thereafter, the
25 Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on For-

1 eign Affairs of the House of Representatives and to the
2 Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a com-
3 prehensive examination of the diplomatic strategy and
4 structure, foreign assistance programs, budget plans, per-
5 sonnel decisions, and public diplomacy plans of the De-
6 partment of State and its related agencies to determine
7 the foreign affairs strategy of the United States to best
8 meet the challenges of a changing world, together with the
9 response report required under subsection (c)(2). Such
10 comprehensive examination shall be referred to as a
11 “quadrennial review”.

12 (c) INVOLVEMENT OF NATIONAL FOREIGN AFFAIRS
13 PANEL.—

14 (1) SUBMISSION OF REVIEW TO PANEL.—Not
15 later than July 30 of the year in which a quadren-
16 nial review is conducted, the Secretary of State shall
17 submit to a National Foreign Affairs Panel (in this
18 Act referred to as the “Panel”), established in ac-
19 cordance with section 3, a copy of such quadrennial
20 review.

21 (2) RESPONSE REPORT.—Not later than Au-
22 gust 30 of the year in which a quadrennial review
23 is submitted to a Panel under paragraph (1), such
24 Panel shall submit to the Secretary a report re-

1 sponding to the findings, conclusions, and rec-
2 ommendations of such quadrennial review.

3 (d) CONTENTS OF QUADRENNIAL REVIEW.—The
4 quadrennial review shall include the following information:

5 (1) A review of the current structures of the
6 Department of State and its related agencies, includ-
7 ing the organization, staffing, and operation of
8 United States embassies and consulates abroad, to
9 determine how best to efficiently and effectively rep-
10 resent the interests of the United States throughout
11 the world and advance the policies of the United
12 States.

13 (2) A review of the level of cooperation and de-
14 gree of integration of the Department of State with
15 other Federal departments and agencies, including
16 the Department of Defense, the Department of
17 Homeland Security, the Department of the Treas-
18 ury, the Department of Commerce, the Office of the
19 United States Trade Representative, the Agency for
20 International Development, the Drug Enforcement
21 Agency, and the elements of the intelligence commu-
22 nity.

23 (3) Recommendations related to how best to
24 meet the anticipated roles and missions of such de-
25 partments and agencies in the future.

1 (4) A review of the efforts of the Department
2 of State with respect to public diplomacy and any
3 recommendations for changes or modifications in
4 public diplomacy initiatives or programs in order to
5 improve performance.

6 (5) An examination of the assumptions used in
7 the quadrennial review by the Secretary, including
8 assumptions relating to cooperation between the De-
9 partment and other Federal departments and agen-
10 cies, communication with allies, levels of risk, real-
11 time situational awareness, and immediate commu-
12 nication within the Department.

13 (6) An examination of the forward presence and
14 pre-positioning necessary for the Department to en-
15 gage in negotiation and conflict deterrence in re-
16 sponse to anticipated threats and conflicts.

17 (7) An examination of the process of how the
18 Department develops scenarios that may require a
19 Department response, and recommendations for im-
20 proving this process to incorporate nontraditional
21 threat planning scenarios and input from other Fed-
22 eral departments and agencies and nongovernmental
23 organizations.

1 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL FOREIGN AFFAIRS PANEL.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than December 1 of
3 the year immediately preceding the year in which a quad-
4 rennial review is conducted, the Secretary of State shall
5 establish a nonpartisan, independent panel to be known
6 as a National Foreign Affairs Panel.

7 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—A Panel shall be composed
9 of a chairperson and eight other individuals ap-
10 pointed by the Secretary, in consultation with the
11 chairman and ranking member of the Committee on
12 Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and
13 the chairman and ranking member of the Committee
14 on Foreign Relations of the Senate, from among in-
15 dividuals in the private sector who are recognized ex-
16 perts in matters relating to the foreign affairs and
17 diplomacy interests of the United States.

18 (2) QUORUM.—Five members of a Panel shall
19 constitute a quorum.

20 (c) DUTIES.—A Panel shall submit to the Secretary
21 the response report required under section 2(c)(2).

22 (d) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—A
23 Panel may secure from the Department of State and its
24 related agencies and from any other Federal department
25 or agency such information as such Panel considers nec-
26 essary to carry out its duties under this Act. The head

1 of the department or agency concerned shall ensure that
2 information requested by such Panel under this subsection
3 is promptly provided to such Panel.

4 (e) PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

5 (1) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—Each mem-
6 ber of a Panel shall be compensated at a rate equal
7 to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic
8 pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive Schedule
9 under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code,
10 for each day (including travel time) during which
11 such member is engaged in the performance of the
12 duties of such Panel.

13 (2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Members of a Panel
14 shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem
15 in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for em-
16 ployees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57
17 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their
18 homes or regular places of business in the perform-
19 ance of services for such Panel.

20 (3) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND STAFF.—With-
21 out regard to the civil service laws and regulations,
22 the chairperson of a Panel may appoint and termi-
23 nate an Executive Director and a staff of not more
24 than four additional individuals, none of whom may
25 be current employees of the Department of State or

1 members of the Foreign Service, if such Panel deter-
2 mines that an executive director and staff are nec-
3 essary in order for such Panel to perform its duties
4 effectively. The employment of an Executive Direc-
5 tor shall be subject to confirmation by a majority of
6 members of such Panel.

7 (4) COMPENSATION OF EXECUTIVE DIREC-
8 TOR.—The chairperson may fix the compensation of
9 the Executive Director, if one is appointed pursuant
10 to paragraph (3), without regard to the provisions of
11 chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title
12 5, United States Code, relating to classification of
13 positions and General Schedule pay rates, except
14 that the rate of pay for the Executive Director may
15 not exceed the rate payable for level V of the Execu-
16 tive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

17 (5) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—An
18 employee of the Federal Government may be de-
19 tailed to a Panel without reimbursement, and such
20 detail shall be without interruption or loss of civil or
21 foreign service status or privilege with respect to
22 such employee. The Secretary shall ensure that a
23 sufficient number of employees are detailed to a
24 Panel to enable such Panel to carry out its duties
25 effectively.

1 (6) TRAVEL CONDITIONS.—To the maximum
2 extent practicable, the members and employees of a
3 Panel shall travel on Government aircraft, ships, ve-
4 hicles, or other conveyances when travel is necessary
5 in the performance of the duties of such Panel, ex-
6 cept that no such aircraft, ship, vehicle, or other
7 conveyance may be scheduled primarily for the
8 transportation of any such member or employee
9 when the cost of commercial transportation is less
10 expensive.

11 (f) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—

12 (1) USE OF THE MAILS.—A Panel may use the
13 United States mails and obtain printing and binding
14 services in the same manner and under the same
15 conditions as other departments and agencies of the
16 Federal Government.

17 (2) ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPORT SERV-
18 ICES.—The Secretary of State shall furnish a Panel
19 with any administrative and support services re-
20 quested by such Panel.

21 (3) GIFTS AND DONATIONS.—A Panel may ac-
22 cept, use, and dispose of gifts or donations of serv-
23 ices or property.

24 (g) PAYMENT OF PANEL EXPENSES.—The com-
25 pensation, travel expenses, and per diem allowances of

1 members and employees of a Panel shall be paid out of
2 funds made available to the Department of State for the
3 payment of compensation, travel allowances, and per diem
4 allowances, respectively, of civilian employees of the De-
5 partment. Any other expenses of a Panel shall be paid out
6 of funds made available to the Department for the pay-
7 ment of similar expenses incurred by the Department.

8 (h) SUNSET PROVISION.—A Panel shall terminate 30
9 days after the submission of the response report required
10 under section 2(c)(2).

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