



United States Secret Service Accountability and Improvement Act of 2014

Background – Why We Need This Bill

- In October 2014, the Director of the Secret Service resigned after numerous security incidents at the White House and on various Presidential trips.
- A top-to-bottom review of the Secret Service has not been conducted despite numerous high-profile leadership and management issues.
- Bill's panel structure based on H.R. 5913, the DHS Accountability Act of 2012, which passed the House during the 112th Congress by voice vote.

Why A Blue Ribbon Commission Compared with DHS's Internal Review

- Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) panel is not a comprehensive review; security of White House complex is the primary focus.
- DHS's panel is not totally independent since members are picked by DHS Secretary only.
- Timeframe of Dec. 15 gives DHS panel little time to review Secret Service top-to-bottom.
- Bill creates comprehensive review by a panel that is truly independent and bipartisan and picked by the American people's representatives.

Summary – What the Bill Does

- Outlines recent failures, such as White House fence jumping incident, Amsterdam and Cartagena misconduct
- Establishes a truly independent panel to examine the efficiency and effectiveness of the Secret Service and to make recommendations for improvement.
- Membership: Independent advisory panel made up of eight members. Appointments made by following:
 - two by Speaker (House Judiciary and Homeland Security Committee Chairs consult);
 - two by Senate majority leader (Senate Judiciary and Homeland Security Committee Chairs consult);
 - one by House minority leader (House Judiciary and Homeland Security Committee Rankings consult);
 - one by Senate minority leader (Senate Judiciary and Homeland Security Committee Rankings consult);
 - two by President (DHS Secretary consults).
- Includes safeguards for bipartisanship (4 Rs and 4 Ds).
- Duties: Panel to examine the following:
 - a comprehensive assessment of the leadership structure, protocols, training, tools, and capabilities of the United States Secret Service;
 - unity of effort between the divisions of the Service and others related to the Service's protective and investigative missions;
 - the effectiveness of communications and dissemination of homeland security information within the Service and with other law enforcement entities;
 - the impact of their culture on the effectiveness and efficiency of the organization;
 - the impact any deficiencies have on the threat from acts of terrorism or other security incidents;
 - identification of security breaches at locations under Secret Service protection in the past five years; and
 - the extent to which current resources provide for accomplishing the various missions.
- Power and authorities: Hearings, subpoena power, administrative items
- Reports to Congress (Judiciary and Homeland Security Committees):
 - Interim report: 9 months
 - Final report: 18 months
 - Includes interim briefings and updates