

HR 6671

Select Agent Program and Biosafety Improvement Act of 2008

Congress: 110 (2007–2009, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Jul 30, 2008

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Horticulture and Organic Agriculture.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Horticulture and Organic Agriculture. (Oct 3, 2008)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/110th-congress/house-bill/6671>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Harman, Jane [D-CA-36]

Party: Democratic • State: CA • Chamber: House

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Rogers, Mike J. [R-MI-8]	R · MI		Jul 30, 2008

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Agriculture Committee	House	Referred to	Oct 3, 2008
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Jul 30, 2008
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred To	Jul 30, 2008

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
110 S 3127	Identical bill	Jun 12, 2008: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Select Agent Program and Biosafety Improvement Act of 2008 - Amends the Public Health Service Act and the Agricultural Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2002 to reauthorize appropriations for the Select Agent Program, which lists and controls biological agents and toxins that have the potential to pose a severe threat to public health and safety. Requires appropriate training of individuals handling or using such agents and toxins.

Includes the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) among the federal agencies limited in the disclosure of information related to listed agents or toxins.

Requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to contract with the National Academy of Sciences to review and make recommendations for improving the Select Agent Program.

Sets forth additional factors that the Secretary must consider in determining whether to list an agent or toxin, including whether the agent or toxin is endemic to the United States.

Requires the Secretary to issue guidance on inventorying and monitoring listed biological agents.

Directs the Attorney General to issue guidance regarding the scope of the statutory definition of "variola virus."

Requires the Secretary to: (1) develop guidelines for how laboratories and laboratory personnel that do not regularly test for listed agents and toxins may be rapidly accessed and utilized during emergencies; and (2) evaluate national needs of, and oversight of, high containment biological laboratories.

Provides for the development of minimum standards for laboratory biosafety and biosecurity training for relevant personnel of high containment biological laboratories.

Requires the Secretary to establish a Biological Laboratory Incident Reporting System.

Actions Timeline

- **Oct 3, 2008:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Horticulture and Organic Agriculture.
- **Jul 30, 2008:** Introduced in House
- **Jul 30, 2008:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR E1623)
- **Jul 30, 2008:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Health.
- **Jul 30, 2008:** Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.