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Select Agent Program and Biosafety Improvement Act of 2009

Congress: 111 (2009–2011, Ended)
Chamber: Senate
Policy Area: Health
Introduced: Feb 26, 2009
Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.
Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. (Feb 26, 2009)
Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/senate-bill/485

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Burr, Richard [R-NC]
Party: Republican • **State:** NC • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Kennedy, Edward M. [D-MA]	D · MA		Feb 26, 2009

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	Feb 26, 2009
Homeland Security Committee	House	Bills of Interest - Exchange of Letters	Sep 22, 2010

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
111 HR 1225	Related bill	**Apr 23, 2009:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Horticulture and Organic Agriculture.

Summary (as of Feb 26, 2009)

Select Agent Program and Biosafety Improvement Act of 2009 - 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

- **Feb 26, 2009:** Introduced in Senate
- **Feb 26, 2009:** Sponsor introductory remarks on measure. (CR S2559-2561)
- **Feb 26, 2009:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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