

HR 678

Department of Homeland Security Support to Fusion Centers Act of 2017

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Emergency Management

Introduced: Jan 24, 2017

Current Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. (Feb 1, 2017)

Latest Action: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. (Feb 1, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/678>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. McSally, Martha [R-AZ-2]

Party: Republican • **State:** AZ • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Barletta, Lou [R-PA-11]	R · PA		Jan 24, 2017
Rep. King, Peter T. [R-NY-2]	R · NY		Jan 24, 2017
Rep. McCaul, Michael T. [R-TX-10]	R · TX		Jan 24, 2017
Rep. Keating, William R. [D-MA-9]	D · MA		Jan 31, 2017

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	Feb 1, 2017
Homeland Security Committee	House	Referred To	Jan 24, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Emergency Management

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

(This measure has not been amended since it was introduced. The summary has been expanded because action occurred on the measure.)

Department of Homeland Security Support to Fusion Centers Act of 2017

(Sec. 2) This bill directs the Comptroller General to conduct an assessment of Department of Homeland Security (DHS) personnel assigned to fusion centers established under the Homeland Security Act of 2002. (A fusion center serves as a focal point within the state and local environment for the receipt, analysis, gathering, and sharing of threat-related information between the federal government and state, local, tribal, territorial, and private sector partners.)

The assessment must include information on:

- the current deployment of such personnel to each fusion center;
- the roles and responsibilities of DHS's Office of Intelligence and Analysis intelligence officers and analysts, reports officers, and regional directors deployed to such centers;
- federal resources provided to each center;
- an analysis of the optimal number of personnel the Office of Intelligence and Analysis should deploy to such centers, including a cost-benefit analysis comparing deployed personnel with technological solutions to support information sharing;
- fusion centers located in jurisdictions along land and maritime borders of the United States and the degree to which deploying personnel from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and the Coast Guard to such centers would enhance the integrity and security at such borders; and
- fusion centers located in jurisdictions with large and medium hub airports and the degree to which deploying personnel from the Transportation Security Administration to such centers would enhance aviation security.

(Sec. 3) The bill expresses the sense of Congress that any program established by DHS's Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis to provide eligibility for access to information classified as Top Secret for state, local, tribal, and territorial analysts located in fusion centers shall be consistent with the need-to-know requirements pursuant to Executive Order No. 13526.

The Under Secretary must submit to specified congressional committees a report on:

- the process by which the Under Secretary determines a need to know to sponsor Top Secret clearances for appropriate state, local, tribal, and territorial analysts located in fusion centers;
- the effects of such Top Secret clearances on enhancing information sharing with state, local, tribal, and territorial partners;
- the cost for providing such Top Secret clearances for such analysts, including training and background investigations; and
- the operational security protocols, training, management, and risks associated with providing such Top Secret clearances.

(Sec. 4) The Under Secretary, in collaboration with the Chief Information Officer of DHS and representatives from the National Network of Fusion Centers, shall conduct an assessment of information systems used to share homeland security information between DHS and fusion centers in the Network and make appropriate upgrades to such systems. Such assessment shall include:

- an evaluation of the accessibility and ease of use of such systems by Network fusion centers;
- a review to determine how to establish improved interoperability of departmental information systems with existing information systems used by Network fusion centers; and
- an evaluation of participation levels of departmental components and offices of information systems used to share homeland security information with Network fusion centers.

(Sec. 5) The Under Secretary shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with each Network fusion center regarding the type of information fusion centers will provide to DHS and whether such information may be subject to public disclosure.

(Sec. 6) The Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended to require fusion centers to assist, review information from, and disseminate information to territorial governments.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 1, 2017:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.
- **Jan 31, 2017:** Ms. McSally moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill.
- **Jan 31, 2017:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H786-787)
- **Jan 31, 2017:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 678.
- **Jan 31, 2017:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by voice vote.(text: CR H786-787)
- **Jan 31, 2017:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H786-787)
- **Jan 31, 2017:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Jan 24, 2017:** Introduced in House
- **Jan 24, 2017:** Referred to the House Committee on Homeland Security.