HR 940

SCOUTS Act

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)
Chamber: House
Policy Area: Emergency Management
Introduced: Feb 7, 2017
Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence.
Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence. (Feb 24, 2017)
Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/940

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]
Party: Democratic • **State:** TX • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 24, 2017
Homeland Security Committee	House	Referred to	Feb 24, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Emergency Management

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Summary (as of Feb 7, 2017)

Securing Communications of Utilities from Terrorist Threats or the SCOUTS Act

This bill authorizes the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to work with critical infrastructure owners and operators and state, local, tribal, and territorial entities to seek voluntary participation of sector-specific agencies to determine how DHS can best serve cybersecurity needs to manage risk and strengthen the security and resilience of the nation's critical infrastructure against terrorist attacks. A "sector-specific agency" is a federal agency designated as such by Presidential Policy Directive 21 relating to critical infrastructure security and resilience.

DHS: (1) shall seek to reduce vulnerabilities, minimize consequences, identify and disrupt terrorism threats, and hasten response and recovery efforts related to impacted critical infrastructures; (2) may investigate the best means for engaging sector-specific agencies in a voluntary cybersecurity information sharing, emergency support, and emerging threat awareness program; and (3) shall establish voluntary opportunities for such agencies and critical infrastructure owners and operators to inform DHS of sector-specific challenges to cybersecurity.

DHS shall: (1) establish terrorism prevention policy to engage with international partners to strengthen the security and resilience of domestic critical infrastructure and critical infrastructure located outside of the United States or in its territorial waters, and (2) facilitate the timely exchange of terrorism threat and vulnerability information as well as information that allows for the development of a situational awareness capability for federal civilian agencies during terrorist incidents.

DHS shall implement an integration and analysis function for critical infrastructure that includes: (1) operational and strategic analysis on terrorism incidents, threats, and emerging risks; and (2) integration of data sharing capabilities with Fusion Centers.

Actions Timeline

- **Feb 24, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection.
- **Feb 24, 2017:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Counterterrorism and Intelligence.
- **Feb 7, 2017:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 7, 2017:** Referred to the House Committee on Homeland Security.

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