

HR 2159

Public Diplomacy Modernization Act of 2019

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: Apr 9, 2019

Current Status: Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Latest Action: Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. (Apr 9, 2019)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/2159>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Watkins, Steve [R-KS-2]

Party: Republican • **State:** KS • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. McCaul, Michael T. [R-TX-10]	R · TX		May 8, 2019

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Referred To	Apr 9, 2019

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 S 482	Related bill	Dec 18, 2019: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 389.
116 HR 3352	Related bill	Sep 9, 2019: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Public Diplomacy Modernization Act of 2019

This bill directs the Department of State to appoint a Director of Research and Evaluation in the State Department's Office of Policy, Planning, and Resources for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs. The director's responsibilities shall include (1) overseeing research to improve State Department public diplomacy strategy and tactics, and (2) developing guidance and training for public diplomacy officers on interpreting and implementing public diplomacy-related research.

The bill permanently reauthorizes the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy and directs the commission to establish the Subcommittee for Research and Evaluation. The subcommittee shall provide advice regarding audience research, digital analytics, and impact evaluation for State Department activities.

The bill directs the State Department's Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy to consolidate various executive support functions for all the bureaus reporting to the under secretary. The under secretary shall also identify opportunities to improve operations efficiency and to maximize the shared use of resources.

The State Department shall adopt certain guidelines related to collecting and utilizing information in the event of a closure or consolidation of a public diplomacy facility.

Actions Timeline

- **Apr 9, 2019:** Introduced in House
- **Apr 9, 2019:** Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs.