

HR 8610

Health Security and Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Act

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Emergency Management

Introduced: Jul 29, 2022

Current Status: Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 469.

Latest Action: Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 469. (Dec 20, 2022)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/8610>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Demings, Val Butler [D-FL-10]

Party: Democratic • **State:** FL • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Clarke, Yvette D. [D-NY-9]	D · NY		Jul 29, 2022
Rep. Thompson, Bennie G. [D-MS-2]	D · MS		Jul 29, 2022
Rep. Underwood, Lauren [D-IL-14]	D · IL		Jul 29, 2022
Rep. Miller-Meeks, Mariannette [R-IA-2]	R · IA		Sep 28, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Discharged From	Dec 20, 2022
Homeland Security Committee	House	Discharged from	Sep 14, 2022
Homeland Security Committee	House	Discharged from	Sep 14, 2022

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Emergency Management

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Health Security and Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Act

This bill makes changes to the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction (CWMD) office of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and provides statutory authority for and expands DHS's Office of Health Security (OHS).

Specifically, the bill

- establishes the new OHS to advise DHS on medical, public health, and workforce safety matters;
- sets forth the responsibilities of the Chief Medical Officer and a Privacy Officer in OHS;
- repeals the terminating date for the CWMD office and sets forth the responsibilities of that office, including efforts to counter chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) threats, as well as other emerging terrorism threats;
- requires DHS to report to Congress regarding the Securing the Cities program (which seeks to reduce the risk of a successful deployment of radiological or nuclear weapons against major metropolitan areas in the United States);
- establishes a CWMD Advisory Council; and
- requires a biodefense review and issuance of a DHS biodefense strategy.

The Government Accountability Office must report to Congress on efforts of the CWMD office to prioritize its programs and activities to safeguard against CBRN threats and on other activities of that office.

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 20, 2022:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Homeland Security. H. Rept. 117-650, Part I.
- **Dec 20, 2022:** Committee on Energy and Commerce discharged.
- **Dec 20, 2022:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 469.
- **Sep 14, 2022:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **Sep 14, 2022:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Voice Vote.
- **Sep 14, 2022:** Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Discharged.
- **Sep 14, 2022:** Subcommittee on Oversight, Management, and Accountability Discharged.
- **Aug 1, 2022:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Recovery.
- **Aug 1, 2022:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Oversight, Management, and Accountability.
- **Jul 29, 2022:** Introduced in House
- **Jul 29, 2022:** Referred to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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.