



## H.R. 5690 – TO EXEMPT THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS FROM TREATMENT AS A TERRORIST ORGANIZATION FOR CERTAIN ACTS OR EVENTS, PROVIDE RELIEF FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS REGARDING ADMISSIBILITY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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### FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 5690 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Howard Berman (D-CA) on April 3, 2008. The House Committee on the Judiciary agreed to the bill, as amended, on April 30, 2008.

H.R. 5690 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on May 6, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

H.R. 5690 requires that the African National Congress (ANC) not be treated as a terrorist organization by the U.S. on the basis of their acts or anti-apartheid events they were involved in before the enactment of this legislation. The Department of State, the FBI and the Director of National Intelligence must update their respective databases to reflect this change.

The bill also allows for present and former members of the (ANC) to be admitted into the U.S., and not be denied admission because of their membership in the ANC or anti-apartheid activities during the 1948 – 1990 period.

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### BACKGROUND

The ANC is considered a “terrorist organization” under the current definition found in the Immigration and Nationality Act. Because of this designation, past and current members of the ANC are not allowed admission into the U.S.

The ANC was created in 1912 by South Africans to advocate for the rights of black South Africans in the wake of slave-labor trade policies. In the 1940’s and 1950’s, the ANC participated in mass civil disobedience demonstrations against the apartheid system being imposed in South Africa by the Afrikaner Nationalist Party, who headed the South African Government. The ANC was banned by the South African Government in 1960, and the leadership of the ANC was forced into exile. Among the leaders exiled were Nelson Mandela, Elias Motsoaledi, and Ahmed Kathrada.

The ban on the ANC was lifted in 1990, and between 1990 and 1994 the ANC negotiated the end of apartheid with the South African Government. The ANC became a registered political party in South Africa in 1994, and Nelson Mandela was elected president on May 10, 1994.

[Department of State – Bureau of African Affairs website](#)

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### COST

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that “implementing H.R. 5690 would have no significant cost to the federal government... that enacting H.R. 5690 could increase revenues by less than \$500,000 a year over the 2009-2018 period.”

[Full CBO cost estimate for H.R. 5690.](#)



# LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

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