



## **S. 377 – United States-Poland Parliamentary Youth Exchange Program Act of 2007**

### **Floor Situation**

S. 377 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 Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN) on January 24, 2007. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, which agreed to seek consideration of the bill under suspension of the rules.

S. 377 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House of Representatives on September 5, 2007.

### **Summary**

S. 377 allows the Secretary of State, in cooperation with the Government of Poland, to establish and carry out a parliamentary exchange program for youth of the United States and Poland. In order to be eligible for participation in the program a student must be: a citizen or national of the United States or of Poland, under the age of 19, enrolled and in good standing at a secondary school in the United States or Poland, and be accepted for up to one academic year of study in a study abroad program approved for credit at such school.

The legislation requires the Secretary of State to submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate detailing the exchange program and its accomplishments.

### **Background**

The United States established diplomatic relations with the newly-formed Polish Republic in April 1919 and has enjoyed close bilateral relations since 1989.

In March of 1999, Poland became a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and in May 2004, Poland became a member of the European Union (EU).

The purpose of the youth exchange program is to demonstrate to the youth of the United States and Poland the benefits of friendly cooperation between the United States and Poland based on common political and cultural values.

**Cost**

At the time of publication the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) had not yet scored S. 377.

**Staff Contact**

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