



**H.R. 2237 - To provide for the redeployment of United States Armed Forces and defense contractors from Iraq**

**Floor Situation**

H.R. 2237 is being considered on the floor pursuant to a closed rule. The rule:

- Provides one hour of debate equally divided and controlled buy the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Committee on Appropriations.
- Waives ALL points of order against its consideration.
- Provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

*\*Note: Pursuant to the rule, the text of H.R. 2237, as passed by the House of Representatives, will be added at the end of H.R. 2206 - U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007, and H.R. 2237 will then be laid on the table.*

This legislation was introduced by Representative James McGovern (D-MA) on May 9, 2007. The bill was referred to the Committee on Appropriations, but was not considered.

*Note: This bill was filed late in the evening of May 9, 2007.*

H.R. 2237 is expected to be considered on the floor on May 10, 2007.

**Summary**

H.R. 2237 requires that the Secretary of Defense commence the redeployment of the Armed Forces in Iraq beginning within 90 days of the enactment of this Act. Contractors operating in Iraq that are funded through the Department of Defense are also included in this redeployment.

Within 180 days of the enactment of this Act, the redeployment must be completed.

The bill requires that no funds appropriated under any law may be used to increase the number of members of the Armed Forces in Iraq that exceeds the number of members in Iraq as of January 1, 2007, unless the increase has been authorized in advanced by an Act

of Congress.

H.R. 2237 does not direct where members of the Armed Forces are redeployed to; they may go to the neighboring countries of Iraq or specifically to Afghanistan.

This legislation permits the Secretary to retain a limited number of members of the Armed Forces for specific purposes. These purposes include:

- Providing security of the United States Embassy and other United States diplomatic missions in Iraq;
- Protecting American citizens;
- Serving in roles consistent with the customary diplomatic positions;
- Engaging in targeted special actions limited in duration and scope to killing or capturing members of al-Qaeda and other terrorist organizations with global reach; and,
- Training and equipping members of the Iraqi Security Force.

If the Government of Iraq requests that members of the Corps of Engineers remain in Iraq for the purpose of reconstruction projects, the Secretary may agree to allow this request.

Pursuant to this bill, any funds made available by any Act for the purpose of redeployment are made immediately available to execute a safe and orderly redeployment of members of the Armed Forces and contractors from Iraq.

H.R. 2237 transfers from the President of the United States to the Government of Iraq all rights, titles, and interests held by the United States in any military facility in Iraq that was constructed, repaired, or improved.

After the completion of withdraw from Iraq, no funds may be obligated or expended to further deploy units of the Armed Forces to Iraq, but it may be waived by a specifically authorized Act of Congress. This provision also include excluding United States Armed Forces in any multinational force sent to Iraq.

This bill does not prohibit or limit funds for the use of providing financial assistance or equipment to the Iraqi Security Forces or multinational forces providing security or training in Iraq at the request of the Government of Iraq.

The bill does not prohibit or limit funds to carry out diplomatic, social, and economic reconstruction activities in Iraq at the request of the Government of Iraq.

H.R. 2237 does not restrict the President to arrange asylum or other means of protection for Iraqi citizens who might be physically endangered by the redeployment of the Armed Forces from Iraq.

### **Background**

Twice during the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, the House of Representatives has voted to provide a timeline for the redeployment of troops from Iraq. H.R. 1591 required troop withdrawal from Iraq pursuant to benchmarks that were established for the Government of Iraq to meet. If they failed to meet these benchmarks, withdrawal would occur more rapidly.

The House passed this bill on March 23, 2007, by a recorded vote of 218-212, 1 present ([Roll no. 186](#)). The Senate also passed this bill with an amendment on March 29, 2007, by a recorded vote of 51 – 47 ([Record Vote Number: 126](#)).

The House voted on the Motion to Instruct conferees on April 19, 2007. The Motion to Instruct requested that the House conferees insist on the House passed withdrawal provisions remain in the conference report to H.R. 1591. The House passed the Motion to Instruct conferees by a recorded vote of 215 - 199, 1 Present ([Roll no. 235](#)).

On April 25, 2007, the House passed the conference report to H.R. 1591 by a recorded vote of 218 - 208, 2 Present ([Roll no. 265](#)). The Senate then passed the conference report by a recorded vote of 51 - 46. [Record Vote Number: 147](#). The Conference Report accelerated the timetable by which American troops would withdraw from Iraq and imposes funding and tactical restrictions on our commanders on the ground and our troops in the field.

On May 1, 2007, President George Bush vetoed the bill.

During the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress, the House of Representative rejected a resolution introduced by Rep Duncan Hunter (R-CA) that called for the immediate redeployment of forces from Iraq. H.Res. 571 was rejected by a recorded vote of 3 - 403, 6 Present ([Roll no. 608](#)), on November 11, 2005.

On the same day the House is expected to consider H.R. 2237, it is also expected that H.R. 2206 – U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act for FY2007 – is considered as well.

H.R. 2206 does not directly include troop withdrawal requirements. Instead, the bill takes a two step approach. It provides \$42.8 billion for the Pentagon immediately (approximately 43% of the funding level provided in the H.R. 1591 Conference Report). This funding would support operations in the Global War on Terror for approximately 3 months.

In July, following submission of the President's report on progress in Iraq, the House and Senate must pass a second resolution to release the additional \$52.8 billion in funding.

H.R. 2206 lays out extremely strict rules for considering the second resolution. It is at this point that language can be inserted to withdraw troops within 180 days.

The Democrat bill also includes House-passed language restricting funding for deployment of U.S. troops in Iraq unless they meet certain readiness standards prior to deployment – although the president is provided the authority to waive the restrictions.

**Cost**

CBO has not scored this legislation.

**Staff Contact**

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