

111TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4974

To provide for quadrennial national security reviews, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 25, 2010

Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. SKELTON, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. WALZ, Mr. REYES, Mr. OWENS, Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. CARTER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

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## A BILL

To provide for quadrennial national security reviews, and  
for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Quadrennial National  
5       Security Review Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds the following:

8               (1) On February 24, 2009, President Barack  
9       Obama noted the importance of utilizing a whole-of-

1 government approach, stating that in order, “to  
2 meet the challenges of the 21st century—from ter-  
3 rorism to nuclear proliferation; from pandemic dis-  
4 ease to cyber threats to crushing poverty—we will  
5 . . . use all elements of our national power.”.

6 (2) In recognition of the importance of inte-  
7 grating all elements of our national influence, one of  
8 the President’s first actions was to merge the Na-  
9 tional Security Council and Homeland Security  
10 Council into a single National Security Staff.

11 (3) United States national security goals are es-  
12 tablished in the National Security Strategy, which is  
13 required by law to be submitted annually to Con-  
14 gress in conjunction with the Administration’s budg-  
15 et proposal. However, only two versions have been  
16 published in the last 8 years, providing little insight  
17 about how we can harness all assets of national  
18 power to achieve these national security goals.

19 (4) Interagency operations are now common in  
20 United States national security missions, however,  
21 outside the military, there is still no driving organi-  
22 zational method for properly matching individual  
23 agency resources with larger joint missions.

24 (5) The Department of Defense’s Quadrennial  
25 Defense Review has led to greater coordination and

1 cooperation among the service branches and simi-  
2 larly the new Quadrennial Review of Diplomacy and  
3 Development is designed to identify key objectives  
4 and missions for United States diplomatic policy,  
5 there is no review that examines the goals and re-  
6 sources across all United States agencies with na-  
7 tional security responsibilities.

8 (6) In its “Beyond Goldwater-Nichols Phase 2”  
9 report, the Center for Strategic and International  
10 Studies (CSIS) recognized this gap in strategic anal-  
11 ysis.

12 (7) CSIS recommended the establishment of a  
13 Quadrennial National Security Review to create an  
14 interagency process to identify national security  
15 goals, assess existing needs and capabilities, estab-  
16 lish priorities for funding, and recommend specific  
17 policy and budget proposals to achieve national secu-  
18 rity goals using all elements of national power.

19 (8) The congressionally mandated Project on  
20 National Security Reform similarly recommended  
21 that the United States needs to develop an overall  
22 strategy to provide timely resources and adequate  
23 authorities for supporting our national security  
24 goals.

1           (9) The 2006 Quadrennial Defense Review Re-  
2       port recommends the creation of “National Security  
3       Planning Guidance to direct the development of both  
4       military and nonmilitary plans and institutional ca-  
5       pabilities.”. The Report states that this guidance  
6       should set national security priorities, responsibilities  
7       and assist United States Federal agencies to “better  
8       align their strategy, budget and planning functions  
9       with national objectives.”.

10          (10) The 2010 Quadrennial Defense Review ac-  
11       knowledges that, “the complexity of 21st century  
12       conflicts demands that the United States govern-  
13       ment significantly improve interagency comprehen-  
14       sive assessments, analysis, planning and execution  
15       for whole-of-government operations,” and advocates  
16       for “an improved interagency strategic planning  
17       process that makes optimal use of all national in-  
18       struments of statecraft.”.

19   **SEC. 3. QUADRENNIAL NATIONAL SECURITY REVIEWS.**

20       (a) IN GENERAL.—The National Security Act of  
21   1947 is amended by inserting after section 108 (50 U.S.C.  
22   404a) the following:

23   **“SEC. 108A. QUADRENNIAL NATIONAL SECURITY REVIEWS.**

24       “(a) QNSR REQUIRED.—Every 4 years, during a  
25   year following a year evenly divisible by 4, the President

1 shall, in consultation with the Director of the Office of  
2 Management and Budget, Congress, and the heads of  
3 other appropriate departments and agencies responsible  
4 for national security, conduct a quadrennial national secu-  
5 rity review (in this section referred to as a ‘QNSR’) to  
6 set forth the security goals, including long-term and short-  
7 term security goals, of the United States.

8 “(b) REPORT.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In a year following the year  
10 in which a QNSR is conducted under this section,  
11 but not later than the date on which the President  
12 submits the budget for the next fiscal year to Con-  
13 gress under section 1105(a) of title 31, United  
14 States Code, the President shall submit to Congress  
15 a report on such QNSR. Such report shall include—

16 “(A) a discussion of the worldwide inter-  
17 ests, goals, and objectives of the United States  
18 that are vital to the national security of the  
19 United States;

20 “(B) a prioritization of the goals described  
21 in subparagraph (A);

22 “(C) a description of—

23 “(i) which agencies and departments  
24 of the Federal Government will be respon-  
25 sible for achieving such goals; and

1                   “(ii) the organizational, policy, and  
2                   budget requirements of agencies and de-  
3                   partments of the Federal Government to  
4                   achieve such goals;

5                   “(D) an assessment of potential risks to  
6                   the United States, citizens of the United States,  
7                   and interests of the United States and any  
8                   challenges to the pursuit or attainment of such  
9                   goals by the United States;

10                  “(E) an assessment of the role of other na-  
11                  tions in the attainment of such goals by the  
12                  United States, including an assessment of polit-  
13                  ical, economic, or cultural trends at the global,  
14                  regional, or national level that will affect such  
15                  attainment;

16                  “(F) a discussion of the foreign policy, na-  
17                  tional defense capabilities, international cooper-  
18                  ative efforts, and other relevant means by which  
19                  to deter aggression and implement such goals  
20                  and policies;

21                  “(G) an evaluation of the capacity of the  
22                  departments and agencies involved with imple-  
23                  menting national security strategy to conduct  
24                  strategic planning and national security-related

1 operations with other agencies and depart-  
2 ments;

3 “(H) an identification of the elements of  
4 national power (including political, military,  
5 economic, intelligence, legal, cultural, and edu-  
6 cational assets and capabilities) needed to deter  
7 aggression and implement such goals and poli-  
8 cies, including description of existing assets and  
9 capabilities available to the United States;

10 “(I) a description of how the Federal Gov-  
11 ernment will coordinate elements of national  
12 power among agencies and departments of the  
13 Federal Government to produce unity of effort  
14 in pursuing such goals and policies;

15 “(J) an assessment of any additional re-  
16 sources, policy recommendations, or other  
17 changes needed to maximize the ability of the  
18 United States to achieve the interests, goals,  
19 and objectives discussed in the QNSR;

20 “(K) the national security strategy report  
21 required under section 108(a)(3); and

22 “(L) a projection of the costs of imple-  
23 menting the goals described in subparagraph  
24 (A) for the 5 fiscal years following the fiscal  
25 year in which the QNSR is submitted, including

1 the cost for each agency and department and a  
2 prioritization of each program within a depart-  
3 ment or agency and an explanation of the stra-  
4 tegic importance of such program.

5 “(2) FORM OF QNSR.—Each QNSR shall be  
6 submitted in unclassified form, but may include a  
7 classified annex.

8 “(c) QNSR ADVISORY COMMISSION.—

9 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a  
10 commission to be known as the ‘QNSR Advisory  
11 Commission’ (in this subsection referred to as the  
12 ‘Commission’).

13 “(2) DUTIES.—The Commission shall assess  
14 each report submitted under subsection (b)(1) (in-  
15 cluding the national security strategy report re-  
16 quired under section 108(a)(3)) and the national se-  
17 curity budget.

18 “(3) MEMBERSHIP.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall  
20 be composed of 15 members, of whom—

21 “(i) three shall be appointed by the  
22 President;

23 “(ii) three shall be appointed by the  
24 Speaker of the House of Representatives;



1 “(iii) two shall be appointed by the  
2 minority leader of the House of Represent-  
3 atives;

4 “(iv) three shall be appointed by the  
5 majority leader of the Senate;

6 “(v) two shall be appointed by the mi-  
7 nority leader of the Senate;

8 “(vi) one shall be appointed jointly by  
9 the Speaker and the minority leader of the  
10 House of Representatives; and

11 “(vii) one shall be appointed jointly by  
12 the majority leader and the minority leader  
13 of the Senate.

14 “(B) QUALIFICATIONS.—

15 “(i) POLITICAL PARTY AFFILI-  
16 ATION.—Not more than 8 members of the  
17 Commission shall be from the same polit-  
18 ical party.

19 “(ii) NONGOVERNMENTAL EMPLOY-  
20 EES.—An individual appointed to the Com-  
21 mission may not be an officer or employee  
22 of the Federal Government or any State or  
23 local government.

24 “(iii) OTHER QUALIFICATIONS.—It is  
25 the sense of Congress that individuals ap-

1 pointed to the Commission should be  
2 prominent United States citizens, with na-  
3 tional recognition and significant depth of  
4 experience in such professions as govern-  
5 mental service, law enforcement, the armed  
6 services, law, public administration, intel-  
7 ligence gathering, commerce, public diplo-  
8 macy, international development, conflict  
9 resolution, economics, trade, finance, and  
10 foreign affairs.

11 “(C) CHAIR; VICE CHAIR.—

12 “(i) ODD NUMBERED REPORTS.—  
13 During the period beginning on the date  
14 on which the Commission is established for  
15 the first time under paragraph (1) and  
16 ending on the date on which the Commis-  
17 sion is subsequently terminated pursuant  
18 to paragraph (7)(A), and during the period  
19 beginning every 8 years thereafter and  
20 ending on the date on which the Commis-  
21 sion is subsequently terminated pursuant  
22 to paragraph (7)(A), the member ap-  
23 pointed under subparagraph (A)(vi) shall  
24 serve as the Chair of the Commission and  
25 the member appointed under subparagraph

1 (A)(vii) shall serve as the Vice Chair of the  
2 Commission.

3 “(ii) EVEN NUMBERED REPORTS.—  
4 During the period beginning on the date  
5 on which the Commission is reestablished  
6 for the first time under paragraph (7)(B)  
7 and ending on the date on which the Com-  
8 mission is subsequently terminated pursu-  
9 ant to paragraph (7)(A), and during the  
10 period beginning every 8 years thereafter  
11 and ending on the date on which the Com-  
12 mission is subsequently terminated pursu-  
13 ant to paragraph (7)(A), the member ap-  
14 pointed under subparagraph (A)(vii) shall  
15 serve as the Chair of the Commission and  
16 the member appointed under subparagraph  
17 (A)(vi) shall serve as the Vice Chair of the  
18 Commission.

19 “(D) DATE OF APPOINTMENT.—All mem-  
20 bers of the Commission shall be appointed not  
21 later than 180 days after the date on which a  
22 report is submitted under subsection (b)(1).

23 “(E) TERM.—Each member appointed  
24 under subparagraph (A) shall serve a term of 2  
25 years.

1           “(F) QUORUM.—Eight members of the  
2           Commission shall constitute a quorum but a  
3           lesser number may hold hearings.

4           “(G) VACANCY.—A vacancy on the Com-  
5           mission shall be filled in the same manner as  
6           the original appointment.

7           “(H) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Each member  
8           shall receive travel expenses, including per diem  
9           in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with appli-  
10          cable provisions under subchapter I of chapter  
11          57 of title 5, United States Code.

12          “(4) STAFF.—The Commission may appoint  
13          and fix the pay of personnel as the Commission con-  
14          siders appropriate.

15          “(5) POWERS.—

16               “(A) HEARINGS.—The Commission may,  
17               for the purpose of carrying out this section,  
18               hold hearings, sit and act at times and places,  
19               take testimony, and receive evidence as the  
20               Commission considers appropriate.

21               “(B) SUBPOENAS.—

22                       “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Commission  
23                       may issue subpoenas requiring the attend-  
24                       ance and testimony of witnesses and the  
25                       production of any evidence relating to any

1 matter relating to the assessment of the  
2 report submitted under subsection (b)(1)  
3 and the national security budget.

4 “(ii) FAILURE TO OBEY A SUB-  
5 POENA.—If a person refuses to obey a sub-  
6 poena issued under clause (i), the Commis-  
7 sion may apply to a United States district  
8 court for an order requiring that person to  
9 appear before the Commission to give testi-  
10 mony, produce evidence, or both, relating  
11 to the matter under investigation. The ap-  
12 plication may be made within the judicial  
13 district where the hearing is conducted or  
14 where that person is found, resides, or  
15 transacts business. Any failure to obey the  
16 order of the court may be punished by the  
17 court as civil contempt.

18 “(iii) SERVICE OF SUBPOENAS.—The  
19 subpoenas of the Commission shall be  
20 served in the manner provided for sub-  
21 poenas issued by a United States district  
22 court under the Federal Rules of Civil Pro-  
23 cedure for the United States district  
24 courts.

1           “(iv) SERVICE OF PROCESS.—All  
2           process of any court to which application is  
3           made under clause (ii) may be served in  
4           the judicial district in which the person re-  
5           quired to be served resides or may be  
6           found.

7           “(C) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGEN-  
8           CIES.—The Commission may secure directly  
9           from any department or agency of the United  
10          States information necessary to enable it to  
11          carry out this section. Upon request of the  
12          Chair of the Commission, the head of that de-  
13          partment or agency shall furnish that informa-  
14          tion to the Commission.

15          “(D) SUPPORT FROM OTHER FEDERAL  
16          AGENCIES.—

17                 “(i) ADMINISTRATIVE.—Upon the re-  
18                 quest of the Commission, the Adminis-  
19                 trator of General Services shall provide to  
20                 the Commission, on a reimbursable basis,  
21                 the administrative support services nec-  
22                 essary for the Commission to carry out its  
23                 responsibilities under this section.

24                 “(ii) STAFF.—Upon request of the  
25                 Commission, the head of any Federal de-

1           department or agency may detail, on a reim-  
2           bursable basis, any of the personnel of that  
3           department or agency to the Commission  
4           to assist it in carrying out its duties under  
5           this section.

6           “(E) GIFTS, BEQUESTS, AND DEVISES.—

7           The Commission may accept, use, and dispose  
8           of gifts, bequests, or devises of services or prop-  
9           erty, both real and personal, for the purpose of  
10          aiding or facilitating the work of the Commis-  
11          sion.

12          “(F) POSTAL SERVICE.—The Commission

13          may use the United States mails in the same  
14          manner and under the same conditions as other  
15          departments and agencies of the United States.

16          “(G) CONTRACTING.—The Commission

17          may, to such extent and in such amounts as are  
18          provided in appropriation Acts, enter into con-  
19          tracts to enable the Commission to discharge its  
20          duties under this section.

21          “(6) REPORT.—Not later than two years after

22          the date on which a report on the QNSR is sub-  
23          mitted under subsection (b)(1), the Commission  
24          shall submit to Congress a report containing the as-

1        sessment of the Commission of such report on the  
 2        QNSR and the national security budget.

3            “(7) TERMINATION; REESTABLISHMENT; FED-  
 4        ERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—

5            “(A) TERMINATION.—Subject to subpara-  
 6        graph (B), the Commission shall terminate on  
 7        the date that is 30 days after the date on which  
 8        the Commission submits a report under para-  
 9        graph (6).

10          “(B) REESTABLISHMENT.—The Commis-  
 11        sion shall be reestablished on the date on which  
 12        a report on the QNSR is submitted under sub-  
 13        section (b)(1).

14          “(C) INAPPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVI-  
 15        SORY COMMITTEE ACT.—Section 14(a)(2) of the  
 16        Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C.  
 17        App.; relating to the termination of advisory  
 18        committees) shall not apply to the Commis-  
 19        sion.”.

20        (b) NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY REPORT.—Sec-  
 21        tion 108 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C.  
 22        404a) is amended—

23            (1) in subsection (a)(3)—

24            (A) by striking “(3) Not” and inserting

25            “(3)(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), not”; and



1 (B) by adding at the end the following new  
2 subparagraph:

3 “(B) Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), in a  
4 year when a quadrennial national security review is  
5 required to be submitted under section 108A, the  
6 President shall submit the national security strategy  
7 report with the quadrennial national security review  
8 in accordance with such section.”; and

9 (2) in subsection (b)—

10 (A) by redesignating paragraph (5) as  
11 paragraph (6); and

12 (B) by inserting after paragraph (4) the  
13 following new paragraph:

14 “(4) Specific recommendations and initiatives  
15 with regard to organizational structure and resource  
16 allocation.”.

17 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-  
18 tions in the first section of the National Security Act of  
19 1947 is amended by adding after the item relating to sec-  
20 tion 108 the following new item:

“108A. Quadrennial national security reviews.”.

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