MEJA EXPANSION AND ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2007

SPONSOR: Representative David E. Price D-NC

DATE-INTRO: June 15, 2007

LAST-ACTION-DATE: October 15, 2007

STATUS:

Introduced in the House, 06/15/07

 Reported in the House, as amended, 09/27/07

 Considered in the House, 10/03/07

 Reported in the House, as amended, 10/04/07

 Passed in the House, as amended, 10/04/07

TOTAL-COSPONSORS: 15 Cosponsors: 15 Democrats / 0 Republicans

SYNOPSIS: A bill to require accountability for contractors and contract personnel under Federal contracts, and for other purposes

Display Major Actions Only

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ACTIONS:
Committee Referrals:
06/15/2007 House Committee on the Judiciary

Legislative Chronology:

1st Session Activity:

06/15/2007 153 Cong Rec H 6576
   Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

07/24/2007 153 Cong Rec D 1041
   Approved for full committee action by House Committee on the Judiciary

08/02/2007 153 Cong Rec D 1128
   Ordered reported, as amended, by House Committee on the Judiciary

09/27/2007 153 Cong Rec H 11026
   Report filed, as amended, by House Committee on the Judiciary (H. Rpt. 110-352)

10/03/2007 153 Cong Rec H 11176
   Remarks by Rep. Moran (D-VA)

10/03/2007 153 Cong Rec H 11177
   Remarks by Rep. Watson (D-CA)

10/03/2007 153 Cong Rec H 11177
   Remarks by Rep. Hall (D-NY)

10/03/2007 153 Cong Rec H 11214
   Remarks by Rep. Perlmutter (D-CO)

10/03/2007 153 Cong Rec H 11214
   House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the
   Union for consideration of the measure

10/03/2007 153 Cong Rec H 11214
   House considered

10/03/2007 153 Cong Rec H 11221
   House agreed to the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the
   House Committee on the Judiciary (pursuant to rule)
Amendment No. 1 (printed in H. Rept. 110-359) offered by Rep. Conyers (D-MI) to clarify that the FBI investigates those fatalities resulting from the 'potentially unlawful' use of force and also allows the Attorney General to request assistance from other federal agencies when assigning personnel and resources to the FBI Theater Investigative Unit; the amendment mandates that the FBI request security assistance from the Secretary of Defense in any case in which the FBI Units need adequate security.

House agreed to Conyers Amendment No. 1 (by voice vote)

Amendment No. 2 (printed in H. Rept. 110-359) offered by Rep. Schakowsky (D-IL) to require the Department of Justice to report a list of charges that have been brought against contractors and contract employees in Iraq and Afghanistan, and a description of the legal actions taken by the United States government against contractors and contract employees in Iraq and Afghanistan as a result of a criminal charge or criminal investigation.

House agreed to Schakowsky Amendment No. 2 (by voice vote)

Amendment No. 3 (printed in H. Rept. 110-359) offered by Rep. Hill (D-IN) to require the Director of the FBI to submit an annual written report to Congress of the progress of the Theater Investigative Units, including the number of reports received of criminal misconduct by contractors, the number of reports received of fatalities caused by contract personnel, the number of cases referred to the Attorney General, and statutory changes necessary for the Director to carry out the duties entailed by this bill.

House agreed to Hill Amendment No. 3 (by voice vote)

Motion offered by Rep. Price (D-NC) that the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union rise

House agreed to the Price motion (by voice vote)

Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union rose

House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the measure
House resumed consideration

Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union rose

Motion offered by Rep. Forbes (R-VA) to recommit the bill to the Committee on the Judiciary with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with an amendment

House agreed to the Forbes motion, by 342 yeas to 75 nays (Roll No. 939)

Reported, as amended, by House Committee on the Judiciary (without written report)

House passed, as amended, by 389 yeas to 30 nays (Roll No. 940)

Remarks by Rep. Perlmutter (D-CO)

Remarks by Rep. Lee (D-CA)

Remarks by Rep. Dingell (D-MI)

Remarks by Rep. Visclosky (D-IN)

Remarks by Rep. Barrett (R-SC)

Remarks by Rep. Schakowsky (D-IL)

BILL-DIGEST:
(from the CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE)

Digest:

MEJA Expansion and Enforcement Act of 2007 - Provides that persons who, while employed under a federal agency contract in, or in close proximity to, an area where the
Armed Forces are conducting a contingency operation, engage in conduct that would constitute an offense punishable by imprisonment for more than one year if engaged in within U.S. jurisdiction, shall be punished as provided for that offense. Requires the Inspector General of the Department of Justice (DOJ) to report to Congress on: (1) the status of DOJ's investigations of alleged violations committed by contract personnel; (2) findings and recommendations about the number of criminal cases prosecuted by DOJ involving such violations; and (3) with respect to covered contracts where the work is carried out in Iraq or Afghanistan, a list of each charge brought against contractors or contract personnel and a description of any legal actions taken by the United States as a result of such a criminal charge or a complaint. Requires the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to ensure that there are adequate personnel, through the creation of Theater Investigative Units, to investigate allegations of such criminal violations by contract personnel. Requires such a Unit to refer a case, if appropriate, to the Attorney General for further action. Requires the Director to request security assistance from the Secretary of Defense in any case in which a Unit does not have the resources or is otherwise unable to provide adequate security to ensure its safety. Authorizes the Attorney General to request assistance from the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Homeland Security, or the head of any other agency, including the assignment of additional personnel and resources to a Unit. Requires the Director to report annually to Congress on the number of reports received by Units relating to suspected criminal misconduct by contractors or to fatalities resulting from the use of force by contractors, the number of cases referred by the Units to the Attorney General for further investigation or action, and any recommended changes to federal law that the Director considers necessary to perform the duties of the Director under this Act.

CRS Index Terms:

Americans in foreign countries
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CO-SPONSORS:
(Display Co-Sponsor List by Date -- ascending order)
Added 06/20/2007:
   DeFazio D-OR          Filner D-CA           Woolsey D-CA
Added 06/26/2007:
   Grijalva D-AZ         HALL D-NY             McGovern D-MA
   Stark D-CA
Added 06/27/2007:
   Brady D-PA
Added 07/12/2007:
   Davis D-IL            Spratt, Jr. D-SC
Added 07/24/2007:
   Schakowsky D-IL
Added 07/31/2007:
   HIRONO D-HI
Added 09/27/2007:
   Bishop D-NY           Blumenauer D-OR       ELLISON D-MN

SUBJECT:  INVESTIGATIONS (92%); US FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (91%); PUBLIC CONTRACTING (91%); JUSTICE DEPARTMENTS (90%); CONTRACTS & BIDS (90%); LAW ENFORCEMENT (90%); CRIMINAL OFFENSES (90%); DEFENSE DEPARTMENTS (89%); ATTORNEYS GENERAL (89%); LAWYERS (88%); NATIONAL SECURITY (86%); SPECIAL INVESTIGATIVE FORCES (78%); ANNUAL REPORTS (77%); MISCONDUCT (77%); CRIMINAL LAW (74%); DEFENSE & MILITARY POLICY (72%);

COUNTRY:  UNITED STATES; IRAQ;

LOAD-DATE: 11/21/2007