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Bill Text and Background for the Week of June 4, 2007

H.R. 2446 – Afghanistan Freedom and Security Support Act of 2007
H.R.65 - Lumbee Recognition Act
S. 5 - Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007

H.R. 2446 – AFGHANISTAN FREEDOM AND SECURITY SUPPORT ACT OF 2007 (*Rep. Lantos – Foreign Affairs*) (*Subject to a Rule*)

Bill Text: [HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)
[Bill Summary and Status](#)

Rule Committee Meeting: Tuesday, June 5, 2007 at 5:00pm in H-313, The Capitol,
[Amendment Process](#)

Committee: [Committee on Foreign Affairs](#)

Committee Staff Contact: 5-5021

LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE:

- **Bipartisan Bill.** H.R. 2446 is co-sponsored by Chairman Lantos and ranking member Ros-Lehtinen. H.R. 2446 reaffirms the United States' long-term commitment to support Afghanistan in its transition from 30 years of civil war to a stable, prosperous democratic state. The bill reauthorizes programs created by the Afghanistan Freedom Support Act of 2002 (AFSA) through 2010, creates a new focus on counter-narcotics, and provides for enhanced oversight of United States strategy and performance.
- **Economic and Development Assistance.** HR 2446 authorizes \$1.7 billion in each of fiscal years 2008 through 2010 for economic and development assistance and provides additional support for programs such as assistance to women and girls, energy development and counter-narcotics.
- **Coordination and Oversight of Assistance.** HR 2446 directs the president to report to Congress each October on any involvement of senior Afghan officials in illegal narcotics trade, terrorism or criminal activities, and, beginning in 2009, bars U.S. aid to Afghan provincial or local governments if the president certifies that such officials are engaged in such activities. The legislation also requires the President to appoint a high-level interagency coordinator of assistance.

- **Military and Other Assistance.** HR 2446 contains provisions that are designed to update AFSA, to strengthen and broaden the reporting requirements so that progress can be measured against established goals and objectives, to require an enhanced strategy for Afghanistan, and to declare policies to foster greater regional cooperation. HR 2446 reauthorizes programs to provide the President with authority to carry out military assistance programs, requires that the President continue to support Afghan and international counter-narcotics operations, and enhance those operations, and provides for additional support to International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and provides for enhanced oversight of United States strategy and performance.
- **Presidential Report.** HR 2446 requires the President to set out an enhanced strategy with specific and measurable reconstruction, counter-narcotics and security goals for Afghanistan. It also requires the Administration to submit a report to Congress describing a large range of political, economic, development, security, and counter-narcotics performance goals and progress.
- **Other Provisions.** HR 2446 provides initiatives to improve Pakistan-Afghanistan cooperation and re-authorizes Radio Free Afghanistan. HR 2446 also calls for a pilot program to test the effectiveness of substituting legitimate alternative crops for poppy production in that country.

House Report 110-170:

[HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

Full Committee Mark-up:

[Full Committee Markup](#), May 23, 2007

[Webcast of Hearing](#)

Summary of Votes:

- **Vote to Report:** Favorably reported to the House of Representatives, by **Voice Vote**.

CRS Reports:

[RL30588](#), Afghanistan: Post-War Governance, Security, and U.S. Policy

CBO Report:

[CBO Cost Estimate](#): Ordered Reported by the House Committee on Foreign Affairs

GAO Reports:

(TBA)

Full Committee Hearing:

[Afghanistan on the Brink: Where Do We Go From Here?](#), February 15, 2007

[Transcript of Hearing](#), [Webcast of Hearing](#)

Member Statements: [The Honorable Tom Lantos](#), [The Honorable Mark Steven Kirk](#)

Witnesses:

[Lieutenant General David Barno](#), USA, Retired, Director, Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies

[Mr. Peter Bergen](#), Journalist and Senior Fellow, New America Foundation

[Mr. Anthony H. Cordesman](#), Arleigh A. Burke Chair, Center for Strategic and International Studies

Subcommittee on the Middle East and South Asia Hearing:

[A Regional Overview of South Asia](#), March 7, 2007

[Transcript of Hearing](#), [Webcast of Hearing](#)

Member Statements: [The Honorable Gary L. Ackerman](#), [The Honorable Richard A. Boucher](#)

Organization Statements:

Embassy of Afghanistan Press Release, [Afghanistan Freedom and Security Support Act Will Provide Country with Crucial Resources for Reconstruction and to Fight Terrorism](#)



Administration Position:

(TBA)

Fact Sheets & Talking Points:

(TBA)

Press Releases & News Articles:

[Foreign Affairs Committee Approves Extended Funding for Afghanistan, Creates Coordinator Position](#), May 23, 2007

Other Resources:

[Cosponsors of H.R. 2446](#)

Legislative History:

No Relevant Legislative History.

H.R.65 - LUMBEE RECOGNITION ACT (Rep. McIntyre – Natural Resources) (Subject to a Rule)

Bill Text: [HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

[Bill Summary and Status](#)

Rules Committee Meeting: Wednesday, June 6, 2007 at 2:00pm in H-313, The Capitol, [Special Announcement](#)

Committee: [Committee on Natural Resources](#)

Committee Staff Contact: 5-6065

LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE:

- **Federal Recognition.** HR 65 extends federal recognition to the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, and repeals the provision in a 1956 law that denied the tribe members federal assistance based on their status as American Indians. The Tribe has been recognized as an American Indian Tribe by the state of North Carolina since 1885. However, a 1956 law, the Lumbee Act, acknowledged the tribe, but expressly prohibited the Lumbee Indians from receiving any federal assistance based on their status as American Indians. Because of this law, the tribe is currently unable to gain recognition through the Interior Department's acknowledgement process.
- **Eligibility for Federal Benefits.** HR 65 specifies that tribe members living in Robeson, Cumberland, Hoke, and Scotland counties in North Carolina would be considered to be residing on or near an Indian reservation for purposes of receiving federal benefits. Under the bill, all members on tribal rolls on the date of enactment would be eligible for federal benefits available to American Indian tribes. Within two years of enactment, the Interior Department would have to verify the tribe's membership rolls. After the tribe members are verified, the measure requires the Interior Department and the Health and Human Services Department to develop, in cooperation with the tribe, a budget plan for benefits and services. This budget plan would then be submitted to Congress.
- **Prohibits Gambling.** The bill explicitly prohibits the Lumbee Tribe from conducting gaming under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act or any other federal law.
- **Legal Jurisdiction.** HR 65 provides North Carolina jurisdiction over all civil and criminal matters on land owned by, or held in federal trust for, the Lumbee Tribe. The state, however, could transfer jurisdiction over such matters to the federal government if the tribe agrees.

House Reports 110-164:
[HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)

Full Committee Mark-up:
[Full Committee Markup](#), April 25, 2007

Summary of Votes:

- [Rep. Rahall Technical Changes Amendment](#) - Clarifies the group that will receive Federal recognition, deletes the requirement that certain information be submitted as part of the President's budget, and extends the time in which the Department has to verify the tribal roll from 1 year to 2 years. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- [Rep. Shuler Interior Department Approval Amendment](#) – Would have made the Lumbee Tribe eligible for the Federal Acknowledgment Process. **Rejected by Voice Vote.**
- [Rep. Duncan Gaming Prohibition Amendment](#) – Prohibits gaming by the tribe. **Adopted by Voice Vote.**
- **Vote to Report:** Reported favorably to the full House, as Amended, by a **Vote of 24 - 7: D 14-7; R 10-3.**

CBO Report:
[Cost Estimate](#): As ordered reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources

CRS Report:
(TBA)

GAO Reports:
(TBA)

Full Committee Hearing:
[Full Committee Legislative Hearing: H.R. 1294 and H.R. 65](#), April 18, 2007

Member Statements: [Chairman Nick J. Rahall](#), [Congressman James Moran](#)

Witness Testimony:

[The Honorable Carl J. Artman](#), Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, D.C.

[Chairman Goins](#), Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, Pembroke, NC

[Arlinda Locklear](#), Attorney for Lumbee Tribe

[Principal Chief Mitchell Hicks](#), Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Cherokee, NC

[Mr. Kelvin Sampson](#), Indiana University, Bloomington, IN

[Dr. Jack Campisi](#), Anthropologist, Red Hook, NY

Organization Statements:
(TBA)

Statement of Administration Policy:
(TBA)

Fact Sheets & Talking Points:
(TBA)

Press Releases & News Articles:
[Remarks of Chairman Rahall at Hearing on Lumbee Recognition Act and Thomasina E. Jordan Indian Tribes of Virginia Federal Recognition Act](#), April 18, 2007

Other Resources:
[Cosponsors of HR 65](#)

Legislative History:
Related Bill: [S.333](#)



S. 5 - STEM CELL RESEARCH ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2007 (*Sen. Reid – Energy and Commerce*)
(Subject to a Rule)

Bill Text: [HTML Version](#), [PDF Version](#)
[Bill Summary and Status](#)

Rules Committee Meeting: Wednesday, June 6, 2007 at 2:00pm in H-313, The Capitol,
[Special Announcement](#)

Committee: [House Committee on Energy and Commerce](#),

Committee Staff Contact: 5-2927

LEGISLATION AT A GLANCE

- **Bipartisan Bill.** The measure has widespread bipartisan support. The Senate passed S. 1 on April 11 by a vote of 63 to 34. The House passed a similar measure, H.R. 3, on a vote of 253 to 174 on January 11, 2007. The text of S. 5 is the same as H.R. 3, except that the Senate bill contains an added provision that would direct the Secretary of HHS to conduct and support research on alternative human pluripotent stem cells. Numerous polls show widespread public support for embryonic stem cell research, ranging from 61% support in an ABC-Washington Post poll to 68% support in an NBC/Wall Street Journal poll.
- **Embryonic Stem Cell Research.** The bill authorizes the Health and Human Services Department (HHS) to conduct and support research involving human embryonic stem cells that meet certain criteria, regardless of the date on which the stem cells were derived from a human embryo. Specifically, the measure limits such research to stem cells that meet the following ethical requirements: (1) the stem cells were derived from human embryos donated from in vitro fertilization clinics for the purpose of fertility treatment and were in excess of the needs of the individuals seeking such treatment; (2) the embryos would never be implanted in a woman and would otherwise be discarded; and (3) such individuals donate the embryos with written informed consent and receive no financial or other inducements.
- **Guidelines and Report on Embryonic Stem Cell Research.** The bill directs the HHS Secretary to: (1) issue final guidelines to carry out this Act within 60 days; and (2) submit annual reports on activities and research conducted under this Act.
- **Pluripotent Stem Cell Research.** The bill also authorizes HHS to conduct and support research on pluripotent stem cell research — research on stem cells not derived from human embryos. The measure authorizes funding as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2010 for such research. The House-passed bill, HR 3, contained no comparable provision. Within 90 days of enactment, the Secretary, after consulting with the Director of NIH, would be required to (1) provide guidance concerning the next steps required for additional research, including the extent to which additional basic or animal research is required; (2) prioritize research that holds the greatest potential for near-term clinical benefit; and (3) take into account techniques outlined by the President's Council on Bioethics and any other appropriate techniques and research.
- **Guidelines and Report on Pluripotent Stem Cell Research.** The Secretary would be required to prepare and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress an annual report describing the activities and research conducted..

CRS Reports:

[RS21044](#), Background and Legal Issues Related to Stem Cell Research

[RL33554](#), Stem Cell Research: Ethical Issues

[RL33540](#), Stem Cell Research: Federal Research Funding and Oversight

GAO Reports:

(TBA)



Senate Joint Committee Hearing:

[Senate Joint Committee Hearing - Can Congress Help Fulfill the Promise of Stem Cell Research?](#), January 19

[Webcast of Hearing](#)

Witness Testimony:

[Story Landis](#), Ph.D, Director, National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke

[George Daley](#), M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Children's Hospital Boston

[Lauren Stanford](#), Juvenile diabetes patient, Plymouth, MA

[John E. Wagner Jr.](#), M.D., Professor of Pediatrics University of Minnesota Medical School

Organization Statements:

(TBA)

Administration Position:

The Administration opposes S 5 and HR 3 and has threatened to veto both bills. [Administration Position on S 5](#), [Administration Position on HR 3](#).

Fact Sheets & Talking Points:

(TBA)

Press Releases & News Articles:

[Pelosi: 'Stem Cell Research Will Give Hope to Millions of Americans who Suffer from Devastating Illnesses'](#), January 11, 2007

[S.5, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act of 2007](#), Democratic Policy Committee, April 10, 2007

[NIH Director Agrees that Federally Funded Scientists Should Have Access to New Embryonic Stem Cell Lines](#), Democratic Policy Committee, March 27, 2007

[Debating Stem Cell Research: Setting the Record Straight](#), Democratic Policy Committee, July 28, 2006

[Partial Transcript of Senate hearing with Dr. Zerhouni](#), Director of NIH, March 19, 2007

Other Resources:

[Cosponsors of S. 5](#)

Legislative History:

The House and Senate approved a similar measure, H.R. 810, the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act, but the President vetoed the bill on July 19. On January 11, 2007, the House passed H.R. 3 by a vote of 253-174. The Senate passed S. 1 on April 11 by a vote of 63 to 34.