



Legislative Bulletin.....November 7, 2001

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H.R. 3167—Gerald B. H. Solomon Freedom Consolidation Act

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Order of Business: The bill is scheduled to be considered on Wednesday, November 7th, subject to a rule.

Summary: H.R. 3167 would designate Slovakia as eligible to receive security assistance under the NATO Participation Act of 1994 (Title II of PL 103-447). Such security assistance is seen as encouraging the NATO Alliance to adopt recipients as full NATO members. The bill would provide that this designation is in addition to the previous designations of Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Romania, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Bulgaria as eligible to receive assistance under the NATO Participation Act. However, this designation of Slovakia is more of a formality since Congress has already been authorizing security assistance for Slovakia under the Arms Export Control Act (PL 106-280).

The bill would authorize FY2002 appropriations for security assistance (available on a grant basis under section 23 of the Arms Export Control Act) as follows:

<u>Country</u>	<u>FY2001</u> (PL 106-280)	<u>FY2002 Current Law</u> (PL 106-280)	<u>FY2002 under H.R. 3167</u>
Estonia	\$6.1 million*	\$6.8 million**	\$6.5 million
Latvia	\$6.1 million*	\$6.8 million**	\$7.0 million
Lithuania	\$6.1 million*	\$6.8 million**	\$7.5 million
Slovakia	\$8.4 million	\$8.5 million	\$8.5 million
Slovenia	\$3.5 million	\$4.0 million	\$4.5 million
Bulgaria	\$8.5 million	\$8.6 million	\$10.0 million
Romania	\$11.0 million	\$11.1 million	\$11.5 million
TOTALS	\$49.6 million	\$52.7 million	\$55.5 million

*\$18.2 million authorization made jointly for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. Numbers do not add up because of rounding.

**\$20.5 million authorization made jointly for Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania. Numbers do not add up because of rounding.

The authorization levels in H.R. 3167 match Bush Administration requests for FY2002.

NATO Enlargement:

Additionally, H.R. 3167 would make three declarations of policy:

1. Congress reaffirms its previous expressions of support for continued enlargement of the NATO Alliance contained in the NATO Participation Act of 1994, the NATO Enlargement Facilitation Act of 1996, and the European Security Act of 1998.
2. Congress supports the commitment to further enlargement of the NATO Alliance expressed by the Alliance in its Madrid Declaration of 1997 and its Washington Summit Communiqué of 1999.
3. Congress endorses the vision of further enlargement of the NATO Alliance articulated by President George W. Bush on June 15, 2001, and by former President William J. Clinton on October 22, 1996, and urges our NATO allies to work with the United States to realize this vision at the Prague Summit in 2002.

Additional Background: The next NATO summit at which expansion will be considered will take place in late 2002 in Prague, Czech Republic. On June 15, 2001, President Bush encouraged NATO at its upcoming Prague Summit to expand to include aspiring countries in Central and Eastern Europe.

The 19 current NATO members are: Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States. The Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland were added in the last round of NATO expansion in 1997.

Cost to Taxpayers: Though H.R. 3167 would authorize a total of \$55.5 million in FY2002 for security assistance for NATO-expansion candidates, \$52.7 million of this total is already authorized in current law. Thus, the net authorization in this bill for FY2002 would be \$2.8 million.

Does the Bill Create New Federal Programs or Rules?: No.

Constitutional Authority: The International Relations Committee (in House Report 107-266) cites constitutional authority in Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (the power to make all laws necessary and proper).

Possible RSC Concerns: In the past some Members have opposed the further expansion of NATO. Some of the arguments against further NATO enlargement include:

1. Given the instability of the region, some are concerned about committing U.S. forces to defend these nations if they are attacked and about declaring that an attack on one nation is an attack on all NATO nations.

2. Some Members are also concerned that some European nations are relying on the U.S. military rather than devoting their own resources to development of a military.
3. Other Members have questioned whether we have appropriately examined the role the NATO alliance should play in the post-Cold War environment.

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