

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2924

To amend the National Security Act of 1947 to establish the National Russian Threat Response Center within the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 15, 2017

Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. NEAL, Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. KEATING) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and in addition to the Committee on Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the National Security Act of 1947 to establish the National Russian Threat Response Center within the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. NATIONAL RUSSIAN THREAT RESPONSE CEN-**
2 **TER.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The National Security Act of
4 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) is amended by inserting
5 after section 119B the following new section:

6 **“SEC. 119C. NATIONAL RUSSIAN THREAT RESPONSE CEN-**
7 **TER.**

8 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is within the Office of
9 the Director of National Intelligence a National Russian
10 Threat Response Center (in this section referred to as the
11 ‘Center’).

12 “(b) MISSION.—The primary missions of the Center
13 shall be as follows:

14 “(1) To serve as the primary organization in
15 the United States Government for analyzing and in-
16 tegrating all intelligence possessed or acquired by
17 the United States Government pertaining to threats
18 posed by the Russian Federation to the national se-
19 curity, political sovereignty, and economic activity of
20 the United States and its allies.

21 “(2) To synchronize the efforts of the intel-
22 ligence community with respect to countering efforts
23 by Russia to undermine the national security, polit-
24 ical sovereignty, and economic activity of the United
25 States and its allies, including by—

1 “(A) ensuring that each such element is
2 aware of and coordinating on such efforts; and

3 “(B) overseeing the development and im-
4 plementation of comprehensive and integrated
5 policy responses to such efforts.

6 “(3) In coordination with the relevant elements
7 of the Department of State, the Department of De-
8 fense, the intelligence community, and other depart-
9 ments and agencies of the United States—

10 “(A) to develop policy recommendations for
11 the President to detect, deter, and respond to
12 the threats posed by Russia described in para-
13 graph (1), including with respect to covert ac-
14 tivities pursuant to section 503; and

15 “(B) to monitor and assess efforts by Rus-
16 sia to carry out such threats.

17 “(4) In coordination with the head of the Glob-
18 al Engagement Center established by section 1287
19 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal
20 Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328), to examine cur-
21 rent and emerging efforts by Russia to use propa-
22 ganda and information operations relating to the
23 threats posed by Russia described in paragraph (1).

24 “(5) To identify and close gaps across the de-
25 partments and agencies of the Federal Government

1 with respect to expertise, readiness, and planning to
2 address the threats posed by Russia described in
3 paragraph (1).

4 “(c) DIRECTOR.—

5 “(1) APPOINTMENT.—There is a Director of
6 the Center, who shall be the head of the Center, and
7 who shall be appointed by the Director of National
8 Intelligence, with the concurrence of the Secretary of
9 State. The Director may not simultaneously serve in
10 any other capacity in the executive branch.

11 “(2) REPORTING.—The Director of the Center
12 shall directly report to the Director of National In-
13 telligence.

14 “(3) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Director of the
15 Center shall—

16 “(A) ensure that the relevant departments
17 and agencies of the Federal Government par-
18 ticipate in the mission of the Center, including
19 by recruiting detailees from such departments
20 and agencies in accordance with subsection
21 (e)(1); and

22 “(B) have primary responsibility within the
23 United States Government, in coordination with
24 the Director of National Intelligence, for estab-
25 lishing requirements for the collection of intel-

1 ligence related to, or regarding, the threats
2 posed by Russia described in subsection (b)(1),
3 in accordance with applicable provisions of law
4 and Executive orders.

5 “(d) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—At the direction of the Di-
7 rector of National Intelligence, but not less than
8 once each year, the Director of the Center shall sub-
9 mit to the appropriate congressional committees a
10 report on threats posed by Russia to the national se-
11 curity, political sovereignty, and economic activity of
12 the United States and its allies.

13 “(2) MATTERS INCLUDED.—Each report under
14 paragraph (1) shall include, with respect to the pe-
15 riod covered by the report, a discussion of the fol-
16 lowing:

17 “(A) The nature of the threats described
18 in such paragraph.

19 “(B) The ability of the United States Gov-
20 ernment to address such threats.

21 “(C) The progress of the Center in achiev-
22 ing its missions.

23 “(D) Recommendations the Director deter-
24 mines necessary for legislative actions to im-

1 prove the ability of the Center to achieve its
2 missions.

3 “(3) FORM.—Each report under paragraph (1)
4 shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may in-
5 clude a classified annex.

6 “(e) EMPLOYEES.—

7 “(1) DETAILEES.—Any Federal Government
8 employee may be detailed to the Center on a reim-
9 bursable or nonreimbursable basis, and such detail
10 shall be without interruption or loss of civil service
11 status or privilege for a period of not more than 8
12 years.

13 “(2) PERSONAL SERVICE CONTRACTORS.—The
14 Director of National Intelligence, in consultation
15 with the Secretary of State, may hire United States
16 citizens or aliens as personal services contractors for
17 purposes of personnel resources of the Center, if—

18 “(A) the Director of National Intelligence
19 determines that existing personnel resources are
20 insufficient;

21 “(B) the period in which services are pro-
22 vided by a personal services contractor, includ-
23 ing options, does not exceed 3 years, unless the
24 Director of National Intelligence determines

1 that exceptional circumstances justify an exten-
2 sion of up to 1 additional year;

3 “(C) not more than 10 United States citi-
4 zens or aliens are employed as personal services
5 contractors under the authority of this para-
6 graph at any time; and

7 “(D) the authority of this paragraph is
8 only used to obtain specialized skills or experi-
9 ence or to respond to urgent needs.

10 “(3) SECURITY CLEARANCES.—Each employee
11 detailed to the Center and contractor of the Center
12 shall have the security clearance appropriate for the
13 assigned duties of the employee or contractor.

14 “(f) BOARD.—

15 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a
16 Board of the National Russian Threat Response
17 Center (in this section referred to as the ‘Board’).

18 “(2) FUNCTIONS.—The Board shall conduct
19 oversight of the Center to ensure the Center is
20 achieving the missions of the Center. In conducting
21 such oversight, upon a majority vote of the members
22 of the Board, the Board may recommend to the Di-
23 rector of National Intelligence that the Director of
24 the Center should be removed for failing to achieve
25 such missions.

1 “(3) MEMBERSHIP.—

2 “(A) APPOINTMENT.—The Board shall
3 consist of 6 members. The head of each depart-
4 ment or agency of the Federal Government
5 specified in subparagraph (B) shall appoint a
6 senior official from that department or agency,
7 who shall be a member of the Senior Executive
8 Service, as a member.

9 “(B) DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES REP-
10 RESENTED.—The department or agency of the
11 Federal Government specified in this subpara-
12 graph are the following:

13 “(i) The Department of State.

14 “(ii) The Department of Defense.

15 “(iii) The Department of Justice.

16 “(iv) The Department of the Treas-
17 ury.

18 “(v) The Department of Homeland
19 Security.

20 “(vi) The Central Intelligence Agency.

21 “(4) MEETINGS.—The Board shall meet not
22 less than biannually and shall be convened by the
23 member appointed by the Secretary of State.

24 “(g) INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT.—The Director
25 of the Center may convene biannual conferences to coordi-

1 nate international efforts against threats posed by Russia
2 described in subsection (b)(1).

3 “(h) TERMINATION.—The Center shall terminate on
4 the date that is 8 years after the date of the enactment
5 of this section.

6 “(i) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES
7 DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘appropriate congres-
8 sional committees’ means—

9 “(1) the congressional intelligence committees;

10 “(2) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the
11 Committee on Armed Services of the House of Rep-
12 resentatives; and

13 “(3) the Committee on Foreign Relations and
14 the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate.”.

15 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
16 at the beginning of such Act is amended by inserting after
17 the item relating to section 119B the following new item:

“Sec. 119C. National Russian Threat Response Center.”.

18 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 507(a) of
19 such Act (50 U.S.C. 3106) is amended by adding at the
20 end the following new paragraph:

21 “(6) An annual report submitted under section
22 119C(d)(1).”.

23 (d) FUNDING.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to any other au-
25 thority of the Director of National Intelligence to

1 transfer or reprogram funds, the Director may
2 transfer not more than \$10,000,000 for each of fis-
3 cal years 2018 and 2019 to carry out the functions
4 of the National Russian Threat Response Center es-
5 tablished by section 119C of the National Security
6 Act of 1947, as added by subsection (a), during such
7 fiscal years.

8 (2) NOTICE.—The Director of National Intel-
9 ligence shall notify the congressional intelligence
10 committees (as defined in section 3 of the National
11 Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003)) of a pro-
12 posed transfer under paragraph (1) not less than 15
13 days prior to making such transfer.

14 (3) INAPPLICABILITY OF REPROGRAMMING RE-
15 QUIREMENTS.—The authority to transfer amounts
16 under paragraph (1) shall not be subject to any
17 transfer or reprogramming requirements under any
18 other provision of law.

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