

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1336

To provide for an assessment of the achievement by the Government of Iraq of benchmarks for political settlement and national reconciliation in Iraq.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 8, 2007

Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. BAYH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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## A BILL

To provide for an assessment of the achievement by the Government of Iraq of benchmarks for political settlement and national reconciliation in Iraq.

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. ASSESSMENT OF ACHIEVEMENT BY THE GOV-**  
4 **ERNMENT OF IRAQ OF BENCHMARKS FOR PO-**  
5 **LITICAL SETTLEMENT AND NATIONAL REC-**  
6 **ONCILIATION IN IRAQ.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-  
8 ings:

1           (1) Iraq is experiencing a deteriorating and  
2           ever-widening problem of sectarian and intra-sec-  
3           tarian violence based upon political distrust and cul-  
4           tural differences between some Sunni and Shia Mus-  
5           lims, concentrated primarily in Baghdad.

6           (2) Iraqis must reach political settlements in  
7           order to achieve reconciliation, and the failure of the  
8           Iraqis to reach such settlements to support a truly  
9           unified government greatly contributes to the in-  
10          creasing violence in Iraq.

11          (3) The responsibility for internal security and  
12          halting sectarian violence in Iraq must rest primarily  
13          with the Government of Iraq, relying on the Iraqi  
14          Security Forces (ISF).

15          (4) On January 10, 2007, President George W.  
16          Bush announced a new strategy for Iraq, which con-  
17          sists of three basic elements: diplomatic, economic,  
18          and military. The central component of the military  
19          element is an augmentation of the present level of  
20          United States military forces in Iraq with more than  
21          20,000 additional United States military forces to  
22          “work alongside Iraqi units and be embedded in  
23          their formations. Our troops will have a well-defined  
24          mission: to help Iraqis clear and secure neighbor-  
25          hoods, to help them protect the local population, and

1 to help ensure that the Iraqi forces left behind are  
2 capable of providing the security that Baghdad  
3 needs”.

4 (5) President George W. Bush said on January  
5 10, 2007, that “I’ve made it clear to the Prime Min-  
6 ister and Iraq’s other leaders that America’s com-  
7 mitment is not open-ended” so as to dispel the con-  
8 trary impression that exists.

9 (6) The Commander, Multi-National Forces-  
10 Iraq, General David Petraeus, stated during his con-  
11 firmation hearing before the Committee on Armed  
12 Services of the Senate, on January 23, 2007, that  
13 it is “very important” for Iraqis to understand that  
14 they need to reach the political settlements which  
15 are essential to resolve the sectarian violence and to  
16 defeat insurgents.

17 (7) General Petraeus acknowledged during his  
18 confirmation hearing before the Committee on  
19 Armed Services of the Senate, on January 23, 2007,  
20 that political settlement and political settlement  
21 alone by the Iraqis is our ultimate way of providing  
22 security and success in Iraq.

23 (8) General Petraeus stated on March 8, 2007  
24 that “[a] political resolution of various differences,  
25 of this legislation, of various senses that people do

1 not have a stake in the success of the new Iraq, and  
2 so forth, that is crucial. That is what will determine  
3 in the long run the success of this effort”. In an  
4 April 26, 2007, news conference, General Petraeus  
5 said that the situation in Iraq remains “exceedingly  
6 difficult”.

7 (9) General Petraeus, as principal author of  
8 Army Field Manual 3–24 (MCWP 3–33.5),  
9 Counterinsurgency, released in December 2006, and  
10 therefore possessing the unique understanding and  
11 experience regarding the principles and fundamen-  
12 tals of pursuing a counterinsurgency strategy, states  
13 that “[i]n the end, the host nation has to win on its  
14 own. Achieving this requires development of viable  
15 local leaders and institutions. U.S. forces and agen-  
16 cies can help, but [Host Nation] elements must ac-  
17 cept responsibilities to achieve real victory”.

18 (10) United States military operations in Iraq  
19 should be conducted alongside a comprehensive dip-  
20 lomatic, political, and economic strategy that in-  
21 cludes sustained engagement with Iraq’s neighbors  
22 and the international community for the purpose of  
23 working collectively to bring stability to Iraq.

24 (11) United States military personnel are cur-  
25 rently serving in Iraq with the bravery and profes-

1 sionalism consistent with the finest traditions of the  
2 United States Armed Forces. Many have lost their  
3 lives, and many more have been wounded. They have  
4 and deserve the support of all Americans, and the  
5 American people will always honor their sacrifices  
6 and honor their families.

7 (12) United States strategy in Iraq should be  
8 conditioned on the meeting by the Government of  
9 Iraq of specific benchmarks, as laid out by the  
10 President and in consultation with Congress, and re-  
11 flected in the commitments of the Government of  
12 Iraq to the international community.

13 (13) The meeting of these benchmarks by the  
14 Government of Iraq should be viewed as the condi-  
15 tion for continued United States military and eco-  
16 nomic involvement in Iraq.

17 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
18 gress that Congress should not take any action, including  
19 the elimination or reduction of funds, that will impair the  
20 mission of the United States military forces in the field,  
21 undermine their safety or harm their effectiveness in pur-  
22 suing their assigned missions.

23 (c) REPORT ON ACHIEVEMENT OF BENCHMARKS.—

24 (1) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after  
25 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Com-

1        mander, Multi-National Forces-Iraq, having con-  
2        sulted with relevant United States and Iraqi offi-  
3        cials, shall submit to Congress an independent re-  
4        port setting forth the status of the achievement of  
5        the benchmarks specified in paragraph (2) and stat-  
6        ing the Commander's assessment whether or not  
7        each such benchmark has been met. The Com-  
8        mander shall prepare and submit the report in co-  
9        ordination with the Director of National Intelligence.

10            (2) BENCHMARKS.—The benchmarks specified  
11        in this paragraph are as follows:

12                    (A) The assumption by Iraq of control of  
13        its military.

14                    (B) The enactment and implementation of  
15        a Militia Law to disarm and demobilize militias  
16        and to ensure that Iraqi security forces are ac-  
17        countable only to the central government and  
18        loyal to the constitution of Iraq.

19                    (C) The completion of the review of the  
20        constitution of Iraq and the holding of a ref-  
21        erendum on special amendments to the con-  
22        stitution of Iraq to ensure equitable participa-  
23        tion in the Government of Iraq without regard  
24        to religious sect or ethnicity.

1           (D) The completion of a provincial election  
2 law and the commencement and specific prepa-  
3 ration for the conduct of provincial elections  
4 that ensures equitable constitution of provincial  
5 representative bodies without regard to religious  
6 sect or ethnicity.

7           (E) The enactment and implementation of  
8 legislation to ensure that the energy resources  
9 of Iraq benefit Sunni Arabs, Shia Arabs,  
10 Kurds, and other Iraqi citizens in an equitable  
11 manner.

12           (F) The enactment and implementation of  
13 legislation that equitably reforms the de-  
14 Ba'athification process in Iraq.

15           (3) TESTIMONY BEFORE CONGRESS.—Not later  
16 than 14 days after the submittal to Congress of the  
17 report required by paragraph (1), the Commander,  
18 Multi-National Forces-Iraq shall appear before each  
19 of the appropriate committees of Congress to testify  
20 with respect to the success or failure of the Govern-  
21 ment of Iraq in meeting the benchmarks specified in  
22 paragraph (2). If, in the Commander's assessment  
23 as set forth in the report, the Government of Iraq  
24 has failed to meet any such benchmarks, the Com-

1        mander shall also submit in his testimony each of  
2        the following:

3                (A) Plans for the phased redeployment of  
4                United States forces currently deployed to Iraq  
5                in support of the Baghdad Security Plan as  
6                outlined by the President.

7                (B) Subject to paragraph (4), plans for  
8                changing the mission of the remaining United  
9                States forces in Iraq to—

10                    (i) training and equipping Iraqi  
11                    forces;

12                    (ii) assisting deployed Iraqi brigades  
13                    with intelligence, transportation, air sup-  
14                    port, and logistics support;

15                    (iii) protecting United States and coa-  
16                    lition personnel and infrastructure; and

17                    (iv) maintaining rapid-reaction teams  
18                    and special operations teams to undertake  
19                    strike missions against al Qaeda in Iraq,  
20                    and for other missions considered vital by  
21                    the United States commander in Iraq.

22                (4) The Commander, Multi-National Forces-  
23                Iraq shall devise the plans described in paragraph  
24                (3)(B) with the objective of successfully accom-  
25                plishing the change in mission within six months of

1 the date of his testimony before Congress. The Com-  
2 mander shall further indicate the number of troops  
3 needed to successfully complete the changed mission  
4 and the estimated duration of that mission.

5 (5) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS  
6 DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “appro-  
7 priate committees of Congress” means—

8 (A) the Committee on Armed Services of  
9 the Senate; and

10 (B) the Committee on Armed Services of  
11 the House of Representatives.

12 (d) COMPTROLLER GENERAL ASSESSMENT.—Not  
13 later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of  
14 this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States  
15 shall submit to Congress an independent report setting  
16 forth—

17 (1) the status of the achievement of the bench-  
18 marks specified in subsection (c)(2); and

19 (2) the Comptroller General’s assessment  
20 whether or not each such benchmark has been met.

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