

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4808

To provide that the Secretary of State should delegate to the Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security or the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security the pre-approval authority for Diplomatic Security special agents seeking authorization under section 2516 of title 18, United States Code, to carry out the interception of wire, oral, or electronic communications.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 29, 2025

Mr. LAWLER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To provide that the Secretary of State should delegate to the Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security or the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security the pre-approval authority for Diplomatic Security special agents seeking authorization under section 2516 of title 18, United States Code, to carry out the interception of wire, oral, or electronic communications.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Parity in Diplomatic
3 Security Investigations Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. DELEGATION.**

5 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
6 gress that—

7 (1) Diplomatic Security special agents should
8 be able to conduct recordings, like those of other
9 United States Federal law enforcement agencies,
10 during the course of their official activities to ensure
11 accountability and promote public confidence in law
12 enforcement efforts; and

13 (2) the Department of States’s current process
14 of obtaining the Secretary of State’s pre-approval
15 for creating each instance of these objective accounts
16 of key investigations and interactions significantly
17 restricts Diplomatic Security special agents from ob-
18 taining timely approval from an appropriate law en-
19 forcement entity for critical information.

20 (b) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State should del-
21 egate to the Assistant Secretary of State for Diplomatic
22 Security or the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of
23 State for Diplomatic Security the pre-approval authority
24 for Diplomatic Security special agents seeking authoriza-
25 tion under section 2516 of title 18, United States Code,

1 to carry out the interception of wire, oral, or electronic
2 communications—

3 (1) in furtherance of carrying out the duties de-
4 scribed in section 37(a) of the State Department
5 Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2709(a));
6 and

7 (2) in accordance with the requirements under
8 chapter 119 of title 18, United States Code.

9 (c) UPDATE TO THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS MANUAL.—
10 Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment
11 of this Act, the Secretary of State should revise section
12 221.5 of volume 12 of the Foreign Affairs Manual to re-
13 flect the delegation to the Assistant Secretary of State for
14 Diplomatic Security or the Principal Deputy Assistant
15 Secretary of State for Diplomatic Security under sub-
16 section (b).

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