

SUMMARY: THE SAFE AND ORDERLY WITHDRAWAL FROM IRAQ ACT

Rep. James P. McGovern (MA-3)

110<sup>th</sup> Congress

(Will be introduced around January 31, 2007)

- 1) 30 days after enactment, the U.S. shall begin the safe and orderly withdrawal of all U.S. Armed Forces from Iraq;
- 2) Withdrawal to be completed within 180 days;
- 3) Withdrawal will be paid for by already appropriated funds; and
- 4) Upon completion of the withdrawal, all funds for deployment of U.S. Armed Forces in Iraq shall be terminated.

Exceptions include:

- 1) Military personnel assigned to the security of the U.S. Embassy in Iraq and U.S. diplomatic personnel; and
- 2) At the request of the Government of Iraq, members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers may remain in Iraq in order to complete reconstruction projects currently in process.

Other provisions of the legislation:

- 1) The number of troops may not be increased during the period of withdrawal;
- 2) Nothing in the bill restricts the locations outside of Iraq to which units and members of the Armed Forces may be redeployed, including nearby countries or Afghanistan/Operation Enduring Freedom;
- 3) U.S. facilities, bases, etc. will be transferred to the authority of the Government of Iraq as part of the orderly withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq;
- 4) The bill does not prohibit the Department of Defense from providing financial assistance and equipment to the Iraqi armed forces and/or to a multinational force, at the request of the Government of Iraq; and
- 5) Nothing in this act prohibits non-Defense Department funding for social and economic reconstruction.

In addition, out of concern for those Iraqi civilians who have worked with our Armed Forces while in Iraq:

- 1) Nothing in this act shall prohibit or restrict the authority of the President to arrange asylum or other means of protection to Iraqi citizens who might be endangered by the withdrawal because of their associations with U.S. military personnel (e.g. drivers, translators, administrative personnel, etc.).