

# CRS Report for Congress

Received through the CRS Web

## House Select Committee on Homeland Security: A Fact Sheet

Judy Schneider  
Specialist on the Congress  
Government and Finance Division

### Summary

On January 7, 2003, the House created a Select Committee on Homeland Security. The panel is granted legislative and oversight jurisdiction over the newly created Department of Homeland Security. It is also mandated to study House rules, including Rule X, as they apply to homeland security matters and recommend changes to the House Rules Committee no later than September 30, 2004. The Homeland Security Committee's report was released and sent to the Rules Committee on September 30, 2004. For options on committee organization, see CRS Report RS21360, *Department of Homeland Security: Options for House and Senate Committee Organization* and CRS Report RS21643, *House Committee System: Jurisdiction and Referral Reform Options*. This fact sheet will be updated as events warrant.

**Creation.** On January 7, 2003, pursuant to H.Res. 5, the House created the Select Committee on Homeland Security.<sup>1</sup> The resolution grants the panel jurisdiction over matters related to the Homeland Security Act (P.L. 107-296), as well as jurisdiction over the new Department of Homeland Security. The resolution further authorizes the select committee to conduct a “thorough and complete study of the operation and implementation of the rules of the House, including Rule X, with respect to the issue of homeland security” and to recommend changes to the Rules Committee no later than September 30, 2004. The Homeland Security Committee's report was released and sent to the Rules Committee on September 30, 2004.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> For information on other changes affecting the committee system, see CRS Report RS21382, *Committee System Rules Changes in the House, 108<sup>th</sup> Congress*.

<sup>2</sup> Full-text of the report at [<http://homelandsecurity.house.gov/files/recommendationsreport.pdf>].

**Membership.** On February 12, 2003, the Speaker and Minority Leader announced their appointments to the select committee. The committee has 27 Republican<sup>3</sup> and 23 Democratic members. Representative Christopher Cox and Representative Jim Turner had previously been designated chair and ranking minority member, respectively.

In order to comply with House and respective party rules limiting committee assignments, 13 Democratic Members and three Republican Members will take leaves of absence from other committees on which they serve. Listed at the end of this report are the members of the select committee, as well as designation of their other committee assignment(s), and chairmanship or ranking position, if applicable. If the committee from which a member is planning to take a leave of absence is known, it is noted. (Some Members have inserted letters of intent in the February 12, 2003 *Congressional Record*.)

**Staff and Funding.** Chairman Cox and ranking member Turner asked for \$700,000 in “seed money” to begin operations of the panel, including staff salaries, office equipment, and computers. On February 13, 2003, the House agreed to H.Res. 77, providing such interim funding. Additional funding of \$11,028,787 for the remainder of the 108<sup>th</sup> Congress was provided pursuant to H.Res. 110, agreed to May 8, 2003.

**Subcommittees.** The select committee created four policy subcommittees: Infrastructure and Border Security; Emergency Preparedness and Response; Cybersecurity, Science, and Research and Development; and Intelligence and Counterterrorism. A fifth Subcommittee on Rules, was also created to review House committee jurisdiction over Homeland Security.

Republican Members	Other Committee Assignment(s)	Democratic Members	Other Committee Assignment(s)
Christopher Cox, chair	Energy and Commerce	Jim Turner, ranking member	Armed Services
Jennifer Dunn, vice chair	Ways and Means	Bennie Thompson	Agriculture
C.W. Bill Young	Appropriations (chair)	Loretta Sanchez	Armed Services Education and the Workforce (on leave)
Don Young	Resources Transportation and Infrastructure (chair)	Edward Markey	Energy and Commerce Resources (on leave)

---

<sup>3</sup> Representative Porter Goss resigned from the House on Sept. 23, 2004, bringing the number of Republicans to 26.

<b>Republican Members</b>	<b>Other Committee Assignment(s)</b>	<b>Democratic Members</b>	<b>Other Committee Assignment(s)</b>
F. James Sensenbrenner	Judiciary (chair)	Norman Dicks	Appropriations
David Dreier	Rules (chair)	Barney Frank	Financial Services (ranking member)
Duncan Hunter	Armed Services (chair)	Jane Harman	Intelligence (ranking member)
Harold Rogers	Appropriations, Subcommittee on Homeland Security, chair	Benjamin Cardin	Ways and Means
Sherwood Boehlert	Science (chair) Transportation and Infrastructure Intelligence	Louise Slaughter	Rules
Joe Barton (appointed Apr. 2004 to replace W.J. "Billy" Tauzin)	Energy and Commerce (chair)	Peter DeFazio	Transportation and Infrastructure Resources (on leave)
Lamar Smith	Judiciary Science	Robert Andrews	Armed Services (on leave) Education and the Workforce
Curt Weldon	Armed Services Science	Eleanor Holmes Norton	Government Reform (on leave) Transportation and Infrastructure
Christopher Shays	Budget Financial Services Government Reform Science (on leave)	Nita Lowey	Appropriations
Dave Camp	Ways and Means	Zoe Lofgren	Judiciary Science (on leave)

<b>Republican Members</b>	<b>Other Committee Assignment(s)</b>	<b>Democratic Members</b>	<b>Other Committee Assignment(s)</b>
Lincoln Diaz-Balart	Rules	Karen McCarthy	Energy and Commerce
Robert Goodlatte	Agriculture (chair) Judiciary	Sheila Jackson-Lee	Judiciary Science
Ernest Istook	Appropriations	Bill Pascrell	Small Business (on leave) Transportation and Infrastructure
Peter King	Financial Services International Relations	Donna Christensen	Resources Small Business (on leave)
John Linder	House Administration Rules	Bob Etheridge	Agriculture Science (on leave)
Porter Goss (resigned from the House, Sept. 23, 2004)	Intelligence (chair) Rules	Ken Lucas	Agriculture (on leave) Financial Services
John Shadegg	Energy and Commerce Financial Services	James Langevin	Armed Services Small Business (on leave)
Mark Souder	Education and the Workforce (on leave) Government Reform Science	Kendrick Meek	Armed Services Budget (on leave)
Mac Thornberry	Armed Services Budget	Ben Chandler (Charles Gonzalez served until Mar. 2004)	Agriculture International Affairs

Republican Members	Other Committee Assignment(s)	Democratic Members	Other Committee Assignment(s)
Jim Gibbons	Armed Services Resources Veterans Affairs (on leave) Intelligence		
Kay Granger	Appropriations		
Pete Sessions	Rules		
John Sweeney	Appropriations		