

GENOCIDE AND ATROCITIES PREVENTION ACT OF 2015

S. 2551

Section 1. Short Title; Table of Contents: Sets out the short title of the bill as the “Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act of 2015”.

Section 2. Findings: Finds that mass atrocities today kill thousands of civilians and innocent individuals on the basis of their ethnicity or religion; that a commitment to preventing acts of genocide has been a centerpiece of policy by consecutive administrations; that the risk of mass atrocities worldwide is increasing; that the United States can strengthen its atrocity prevention and peacebuilding efforts by working with civil society and by enhancing cooperation with ethnic and religious groups.

Section 3. Definitions: This section defines key terms in the bill text, including Genocide; Mass Atrocity; and Peacebuilding.

Section 4. Statement of Policy Regarding Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention: It is the policy of the United States: that prevention of mass atrocities and genocide is a core national security interest as well as a core moral responsibility; to mitigate threats to the United States by preventing the root causes of conflicts and atrocities; to enhance capacity to prevent and address mass atrocities; to create a government-wide strategy to prevent and respond, using diplomatic, foreign assistance, international peacebuilding, and local civil society mechanisms, among others; to take a leadership role in employing unilateral, bilateral, and multilateral means to end conflicts peacefully.

Section 5. Atrocities Prevention Board: Authorizes an interagency Atrocities Prevention Board to coordinate a whole of government approach to preventing mass atrocities; to integrate early warning systems and coordinate the policy response regarding mass atrocities; track and report on Federal funding spend on atrocity prevention efforts; oversee development and implementation of atrocities prevention strategies; identify necessary resources and policies; identify and close gaps in expertise and planning; engage relevant civil society stakeholders; and conduct atrocity-specific review of policy and programming in countries at risk for atrocities.

Section 6. Training of Foreign Service Officers in Conflict and Atrocity Prevention: Requires that Foreign Service Officers be trained on recognizing patterns of escalation and early warning signs of potential atrocities or violence, including gender-based violence, and methods of assessment, peacebuilding, mediation for prevention, and early action and response.

Section 7. Report of the Director of National Intelligence: Suggests that the Director of National Intelligence include a review of countries at risk of genocide and mass atrocities in their annual report to Congress.

Section 8. Complex Crises Fund: Authorizes the Complex Crises Fund, providing for a USAID fund to prevent or respond to emerging or unforeseen complex crises, including humanitarian, political, social, or economic challenges that threaten stability in a country or region; to counter the rise of violent conflict and instability; or to advance the consolidation of peace and democracy.