

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 816

To amend the Diplomatic Security Act of 1986 to provide for improved serious security incident investigations, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 17 (legislative day, MARCH 16), 2021

Mr. RISCH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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## A BILL

To amend the Diplomatic Security Act of 1986 to provide for improved serious security incident investigations, and for other purposes.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Diplomatic Support  
5 and Security Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. INVESTIGATION OF SERIOUS SECURITY INCIDENTS.**

7 Section 301 of the Diplomatic Security Act of 1986  
8 (22 U.S.C. 4831) is amended—

9 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**AC-**  
10 **COUNTABILITY REVIEW BOARDS**” and inserting

1       **“INVESTIGATION OF SERIOUS SECURITY INCI-**  
2       **DENTS”;**

3               (2) in subsection (a)—

4                       (A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as  
5       follows:

6               **“(1) CONVENING THE SERIOUS SECURITY INCI-**  
7       **DENT INVESTIGATION PERMANENT COORDINATING**  
8       **COMMITTEE PROCESS.—**

9                       **“(A) IN GENERAL.—**In any case of a seri-  
10       ous security incident involving loss of life, seri-  
11       ous injury, or significant destruction of prop-  
12       erty at, or related to, a United States Govern-  
13       ment (USG) diplomatic mission abroad, and in  
14       any case of a serious breach of security involv-  
15       ing intelligence activities of a foreign govern-  
16       ment directed at a USG mission abroad, a Seri-  
17       ous Security Incident Investigation (SSII) into  
18       the event shall be convened by the Department  
19       of State and a report produced for the Sec-  
20       retary providing a full account of what oc-  
21       curred, including—

22                               “(i) whether security provisions perti-  
23       nent to the incident were in place and  
24       functioning;

1           “(ii) whether any malfeasance or  
2           breach of duty took place that materially  
3           contributed to the outcome of the incident;  
4           and

5           “(iii) any recommendations of relevant  
6           security improvements or follow-up meas-  
7           ures.

8           “(B) EXCEPTION.—A Serious Security In-  
9           cident Investigation need not be convened where  
10          the Secretary determines that a case clearly in-  
11          volves only causes unrelated to security.”;

12          (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “Board”  
13          and inserting “Serious Security Incident Inves-  
14          tigation”; and

15          (C) by striking paragraph (3);

16          (3) in subsection (b)—

17          (A) in paragraph (1)—

18                 (i) by striking “Except as” and all  
19                 that follows through “Board” and insert-  
20                 ing “The Secretary of State shall convene  
21                 a Serious Security Incident Investigation  
22                 and the subsequent Permanent Coordin-  
23                 ating Committee process (SSII/PCC)”;  
24                 and

1 (ii) by striking “for the convening of  
2 the Board”; and

3 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “Board”  
4 each place it appears and inserting “SSII/  
5 PCC”; and

6 (4) in subsection (c)—

7 (A) by striking “Board” and inserting  
8 “Serious Security Incident Investigation and  
9 begins the SSII/PCC process”;

10 (B) by adding “and ranking member”  
11 after “chairman”; and

12 (C) by striking “Speaker” and all that fol-  
13 lows through the period at the end of para-  
14 graph (3) and inserting “chairman and ranking  
15 member of the Committee of Foreign Affairs of  
16 the House of Representatives.”.

17 **SEC. 3. SERIOUS SECURITY INCIDENT INVESTIGATION PER-**  
18 **MANENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE.**

19 Section 302 of the Diplomatic Security Act of 1986  
20 (22 U.S.C. 4832) is amended to read as follows:

21 **“SEC. 302. SERIOUS SECURITY INCIDENT INVESTIGATION**  
22 **PERMANENT COORDINATING COMMITTEE.**

23 “(a) BUREAU OF DIPLOMATIC SECURITY RESPONSI-  
24 BILITY FOR INVESTIGATIONS.—The Bureau of Diplomatic  
25 Security shall be responsible for carrying out investiga-

1 tions of serious security incidents, utilizing such investiga-  
2 tive personnel and other resources as may necessary.

3 “(b) SERIOUS SECURITY INCIDENT PERMANENT CO-  
4 ORDINATING COMMITTEE.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Serious Security Inci-  
6 dent Investigation Permanent Coordinating Com-  
7 mittee (SSII/PCC) shall be convened to review each  
8 serious security incident. The SSII/PCC shall review  
9 the Report of Investigation prepared under section  
10 303(b) and any other available reporting and evi-  
11 dence, including video recordings, and shall prepare  
12 the SSII/PCC Report under section 304(b).

13 “(2) COMPOSITION.—The SSII/PCC shall be  
14 primarily composed of Assistant Secretary-level per-  
15 sonnel in the Department of State, and shall at a  
16 minimum include the following personnel:

17 “(A) A representative of the Under Sec-  
18 retary of State for Management, who shall  
19 serve as chair of the SSII/PCC.

20 “(B) The Assistant Secretary responsible  
21 for the region where the incident occurred.

22 “(C) The Assistant Secretary for Diplo-  
23 matic Security.

24 “(D) The Assistant Secretary for the Bu-  
25reau of Intelligence and Research.



1 out the investigation of an incident reported under  
2 paragraph (1). The investigation shall cover the fol-  
3 lowing matters:

4 “(A) An assessment of what occurred, who  
5 perpetrated or is suspected of having per-  
6 petrated the attack, and whether applicable se-  
7 curity procedures were followed.

8 “(B) In the event the security incident was  
9 an attack on a United States diplomatic com-  
10 pound, motorcade, residence, or other facility, a  
11 determination whether adequate security coun-  
12 termeasures were in effect.

13 “(C) If the incident was an attack on an  
14 individual or group of officers, employees, or  
15 family members under chief of mission author-  
16 ity conducting approved operations or move-  
17 ments outside the United States mission, a de-  
18 termination whether proper security briefings  
19 and procedures were in place and whether ade-  
20 quate consideration of threat and weighing of  
21 risk of the operation or movement took place.

22 “(D) An assessment of whether any offi-  
23 cials’ or employees’ failure to follow procedures  
24 or perform their duties contributed to the secu-  
25 rity incident.

1           “(b) REPORT OF INVESTIGATION.—The investigative  
2 team shall prepare a Report of Investigation at the conclu-  
3 sion of the Serious Security Incident Investigation and  
4 submit the report to the Serious Security Incident Inves-  
5 tigation Permanent Coordinating Committee (SSII/PCC).

6 The report shall include the following elements:

7           “(1) A detailed description of the matters set  
8 forth in subparagraphs (A) through (D) of sub-  
9 section (a)(2), including all related findings.

10           “(2) An accurate account of the casualties, in-  
11 jured, and damage resulting from the incident.

12           “(3) A review of security procedures and direc-  
13 tives in place at the time of the incident.

14           “(c) CONFIDENTIALITY.—The investigative team  
15 shall adopt such procedures with respect to confidentiality  
16 as determined necessary, including procedures relating to  
17 the conduct of closed proceedings or the submission and  
18 use of evidence in camera, to ensure in particular the pro-  
19 tection of classified information relating to national de-  
20 fense, foreign policy, or intelligence matters. The Director  
21 of National Intelligence shall establish the level of protec-  
22 tion required for intelligence information and for informa-  
23 tion relating to intelligence personnel included in the re-  
24 port under subsection (b). The SSII/PCC shall determine  
25 the level of classification of the final report prepared under





1       ity, whether the security systems, security counter-  
2       measures, and security procedures operated as in-  
3       tended, and whether such systems worked to materi-  
4       ally mitigate the attack or were found to be inad-  
5       equate to mitigate the threat and attack.

6           “(3) If the incident involved an individual or  
7       group of officers conducting an approved operation  
8       outside the mission, a determination whether a valid  
9       process was followed in evaluating the requested op-  
10      eration and weighing the risk of the operation. Such  
11      determination shall not seek to assign accountability  
12      for the incident unless the SSII/PCC determines  
13      that an official breached their duty.

14          “(4) An assessment of the impact of intelligence  
15      and information availability, and whether the mis-  
16      sion was aware of the general operating threat envi-  
17      ronment or any more specific threat intelligence or  
18      information and took that into account in ongoing  
19      and specific operations.

20          “(5) Such other facts and circumstances that  
21      may be relevant to the appropriate security manage-  
22      ment of United States missions abroad.

23          “(b) SSII/PCC REPORT.—Not later than 30 days  
24      after receiving the Report of Investigation prepared under  
25      section 303(b), the SSII/PCC shall submit a report to the

1 Secretary of State including the findings under subsection  
2 (a) and any related recommendations. Not later than 90  
3 days after receiving the report, the Secretary of State shall  
4 submit the report to the Committee on Foreign Relations  
5 of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of  
6 the House of Representatives.

7 “(c) PERSONNEL RECOMMENDATIONS.—If in the  
8 course of conducting an investigation under section 303,  
9 the investigative team finds reasonable cause to believe  
10 any individual described in section 303(a)(2)(D) has  
11 breached the duty of that individual or finds lesser failures  
12 on the part of an individual in the performance of his or  
13 her duties related to the incident, it shall be reported to  
14 the SSII/PCC. If the SSII/PCC find reasonable cause to  
15 support the determination, it shall be reported to the Di-  
16 rector General of the Foreign Service for appropriate ac-  
17 tion.”.

18 **SEC. 6. RELATION TO OTHER PROCEEDINGS.**

19 Section 305 of the Diplomatic Security Act of 1986  
20 (22 U.S.C. 4835) is amended—

21 (1) by inserting “(a) NO EFFECT ON EXISTING  
22 REMEDIES OR DEFENSES.—” before “Nothing in  
23 this title”; and

24 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
25 section:

1       “(b) FUTURE INQUIRIES.—Nothing in this title shall  
2 be construed to preclude the Secretary of State from con-  
3 vening a follow-up public board of inquiry to investigate  
4 any security incident if the incident was of such magnitude  
5 or significance that an internal process is deemed insuffi-  
6 cient to understand and investigate the incident. All mate-  
7 rials gathered during the procedures provided under this  
8 title shall be provided to any related board of inquiry con-  
9 vened by the Secretary.”.

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