

THE ANTI-CRONYISM AND PUBLIC SAFETY ACT

The Anti-Cronyism and Public Safety Act would prohibit the President from appointing unqualified individuals to important public safety position in government.

Minimum Standards for Public Safety Appointees

Under the bill, any individual appointed by the President to a position with responsibilities for public safety would be required to have:

- Proven credentials relevant to the position;
- A superior record of achievement in one or more areas relevant to the position;
- Training and expertise in one or more areas relevant to the position.

In addition, the President would not be allowed to appoint an individual to a public safety position if the person had been a lobbyist for an industry subject to the authority of the agency during the preceding two years.

Definition of Covered Public Safety Positions

The following public safety positions are subject to the provisions of the bill:

- Under Secretary for Emergency Preparedness and Response at the Department of Homeland Security;
- Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency;¹
- Regional Directors of the Federal Emergency Management Agency;
- Recovery Division Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency;
- Assistant Secretary for Immigration and Custom Enforcement at the Department of Homeland Security;
- Assistant Secretary for Public Health Emergency Preparedness at the Department of Health and Human Services;
- Assistant Administrator for Solid Waste and Emergency Response at the Environmental Protection Agency.

In addition, the bill applies to any other position which has the primary function of responding to a direct threat to life or property or hazard to health, as identified by the head of each agency.

¹ Currently, the Under Secretary for Emergency Preparedness and Response at the Department of Homeland Security and the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency are combined into one position. Under the Department of Homeland Security's new reorganization proposal, they would be split into two positions. See U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Press Release, *Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff Announces Six-Point Agenda for Department of Homeland Security* (July 13, 2005) (online at http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/interapp/press_release/press_release_0703.xml).