

Name _____

4.4 USA PATRIOT Act [10 pts]**Full title:**

Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001

- Introduced in the House of Representatives as H.R. 3162 by Frank James Sensenbrenner, Jr. on October 23, 2001
- Passed the House on October 24, 2001 (Yeas: 357; Nays: 66)
- Passed the Senate on October 25, 2001 (Yeas: 98; Nays: 1)
- Signed into law by President Bush on October 26, 2001

The USA PATRIOT Act, commonly known as the "Patriot Act", is a statute enacted by the United States Government that President George W. Bush signed into law on October 26, 2001. The act expands the authority of U.S. law enforcement agencies for the stated purposes of fighting terrorism in the United States and abroad.

The Act increases the ability of law enforcement agencies to search telephone, e-mail communications, medical, financial, and other records; eases restrictions on foreign intelligence gathering within the United States; expands the Secretary of the Treasury's authority to regulate financial transactions, particularly those involving foreign individuals and entities; and enhances the discretion of law enforcement and immigration authorities in detaining and deporting immigrants suspected of terrorism-related acts. The act also expands the definition of terrorism to include domestic terrorism, thus enlarging the number of activities to which the USA PATRIOT Act's expanded law enforcement powers can be applied.

The Act was passed by wide margins in both houses of Congress and was supported by members of both the Republican and Democratic parties. Opponents of the law have criticized its authorization of indefinite detentions of immigrants; searches through which law enforcement officers search a home or business without the owner's or the occupant's permission or knowledge; the expanded use of National Security Letters, which allows the FBI to search telephone, e-mail, and financial records without a court order; and the expanded access of law enforcement agencies to business records, including library and financial records. Since its passage, several legal challenges have been brought against the act, and Federal courts have ruled that a number of provisions are unconstitutional.

Many of the act's provisions were to sunset (expire) beginning December 31, 2005, approximately 4 years after its passage. But months before the sunset date, supporters of the act pushed to make its sunset provisions permanent, while critics sought to revise various sections to enhance civil liberty protections.

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Understanding the Article

1. The Patriot Act was passed shortly after what infamous attack on the US?
2. The Patriot Act was designed to help protect the US from what?
3. How many days passed between when the Patriot Act was proposed and when it was signed into law? What does that tell you about this bill?
4. How many representatives voted against the Patriot Act? How many Senators? What does this say about the bill?
5. List one thing the Patriot Act makes easier for law enforcement to search.
6. How does the Patriot Act expand the definition of terrorism giving law enforcement more power?
7. What people need to worry most about the Patriot Act?
8. When were most of the Patriot Act provisions supposed to expire?
9. What happened that stopped them from expiring?
10. Which of the powers granted to law enforcement (police) worry you the most?