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Tanner, Abercrombie Agree to Revise Demand for Redeployment Report Before Floor Vote

By Alan K. Ota
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Reps. John Tanner and Neil Abercrombie say they have agreed to revise their bill demanding a troop redeployment report to make it more palatable to fellow Democrats before they are asked to vote on it.

“I expect the bill will be on the floor next week,” said Tanner, D-Tenn., said Thursday.

Tanner’s bill ([HR 3087](#)) was designed to require the White House to provide Congress within 60 days a report laying out plans for redeploying troops now in Iraq.

Under the deal with the leaders, the sponsors said their bill will be revised to give President Bush just 30 days to produce the redeployment plan.

Tanner and Abercrombie, D-Hawaii, have been pushing hard to get a floor vote for their proposal. But they faced intraparty opposition from liberals such as Lynn Woolsey of California, who had been arguing that a 60-day clock would delay for too long a showdown on other proposals seeking a fixed timeline for withdrawal.

“I think 30 days is plenty of time,” said Tanner. “We’ve heard from Gen. (David H.) Petraeus. They know what they are doing over there,” Tanner said. “Members will view this as a proposal that will play a constructive role in the civilian authority’s deliberations on where to go and how to do it in Iraq.”

“We think we will have enough votes to pass it,” added Tanner.

Indeed, the bill may gain GOP support.

“I would be shocked if the Pentagon doesn’t have such a plan on the shelf. That’s what they do,” said Minority Leader John A. Boehner, R-Ohio, .

Asked if he would vote for the bill, Boehner said, “I think so.”

House leadership aides have said the Tanner-Abercrombie proposal is likely to go to the floor next week. But Majority Whip James E. Clyburn, D-S.C., said a final decision had not been made on the timing for the vote.