

House Foreign Affairs Committee Mark-up of State Dept reorganization bill. *Devex Newswire*, 18 Sep 2025

### **Where's the coffee?**

Yesterday was a big — and long — day for the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee, which spent more than 20 hours ([and counting](#)) **debating the future of the State Department**. It was at times a contentious affair, including lawmakers bickering over whether the process of developing bills was a bipartisan one.

It was clear that reauthorizing the [State Department](#) is important to committee chair Rep. Brian Mast, a Republican from Florida, who said that when he asked for the job he promised the first comprehensive State Department reauthorization since 2002. “We are taking that action today, but this can’t be done as a one-off. It should be the ambition of all of us to do this, not just every Congress, but every year moving forward.”

That might be a tough sell: Historically, passing sprawling State Department reauthorizations has been difficult, and **there is no guarantee that this set of bills will succeed**, my colleague Adva Saldinger, who sat through the day’s political wrangling, tells me.

Lawmakers discussed **a number of bills addressing structural or organizational changes** at the State Department, along with hundreds of amendments. Some of those structural bills gained bipartisan support, but not the bill outlining a new structure for U.S. foreign assistance, which the State Department took over from the now-defunct [USAID](#).

The top Democrat on the committee, Rep. Gregory Meeks of New York, said he could not support a revamp of the State Department that would “rubber-stamp” or “codify” the administration’s “illegal actions to shutter USAID.”

Adva has been tuning into the markup and **will have a full readout later today**.

**Background:** [US lawmakers propose sweeping State Department reforms](#)