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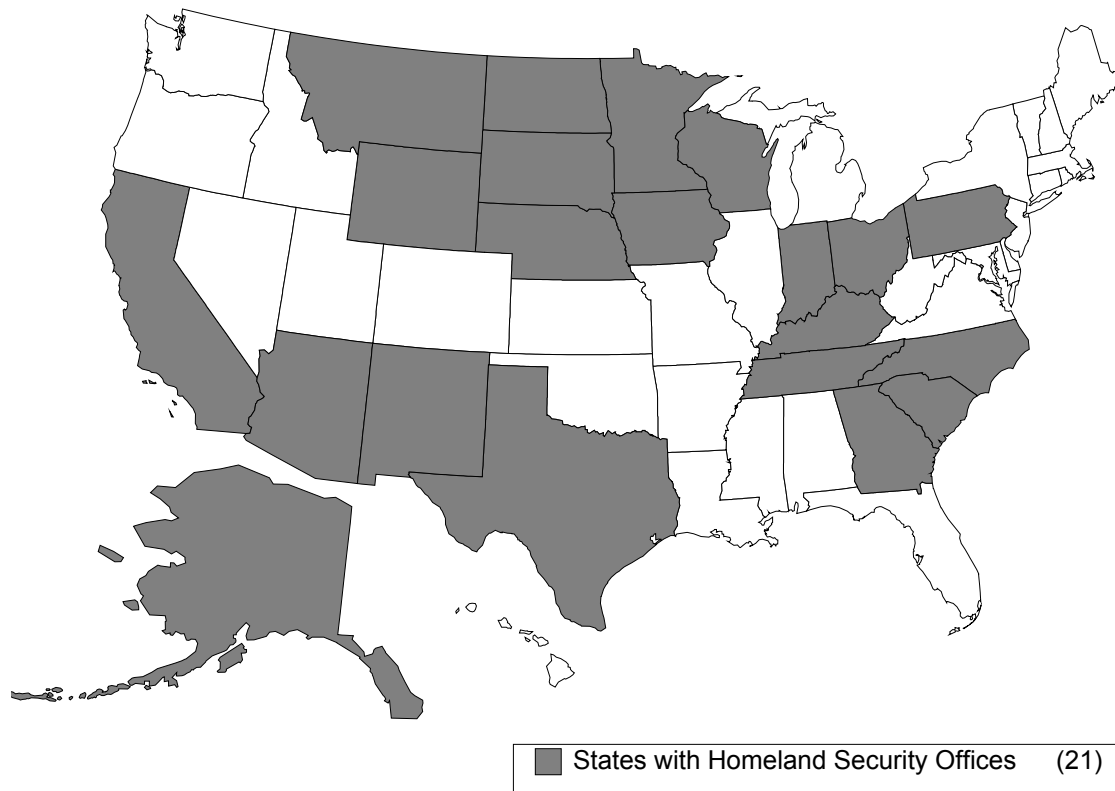
## **The Vermont Legislative Research Shop**

### **State Responses to Terrorism**

Every state has responded in some way to the events of September 11<sup>th</sup>. Most states have named a Director of Homeland Security or a liaison to the national Office of Homeland Security, led by Gov. Tom Ridge of Pennsylvania, and 21 have actually set up their own Office of Homeland Security or an office that specifically deals with homeland security issues. These states are Alaska, Arizona, California, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Minnesota, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Tennessee, Wisconsin and Wyoming (National Governors Association 2002). The majority of states have formed state offices of homeland security as well as task forces to evaluate and modify security measures within their state. They have also created the National Homeland Security Policy to standardized security policies throughout the United States. States continue to pass legislation relating to National Guard security placement at nuclear power plants as well as critical infrastructure sites. Many state legislatures are considering legislation and have passed laws regarding these issues, including harsher and more defined penalties for terrorist hoaxes or threats. (See Appendix for overview of states' actions.)

### **Homeland Security Offices**

Twenty one states have established offices with the purpose of studying and coordinating security and anti-terrorism activities (National Governors Association 2002). Some states were able to incorporate this office into their existing emergency management framework, or existing offices. California handles this task through their State Strategic Committee on Terrorism, which was established in 1999. (California Office of Emergency Services 2002) Several other states recognized the need to establish this type of office. The state of Alaska established such an office in 2001 that is typical of the offices being set up in other states. Alaska Office of Homeland Security will work with the national office, and will coordinate military, federal, local, educational, private agencies and other states as well as Canada. The office has five sub-cabinets that are Domestic Preparedness/Consequence Management, Energy Security, Security, Information Technology and telecommunications Security, and Transportation Security (The State of Alaska 2001).

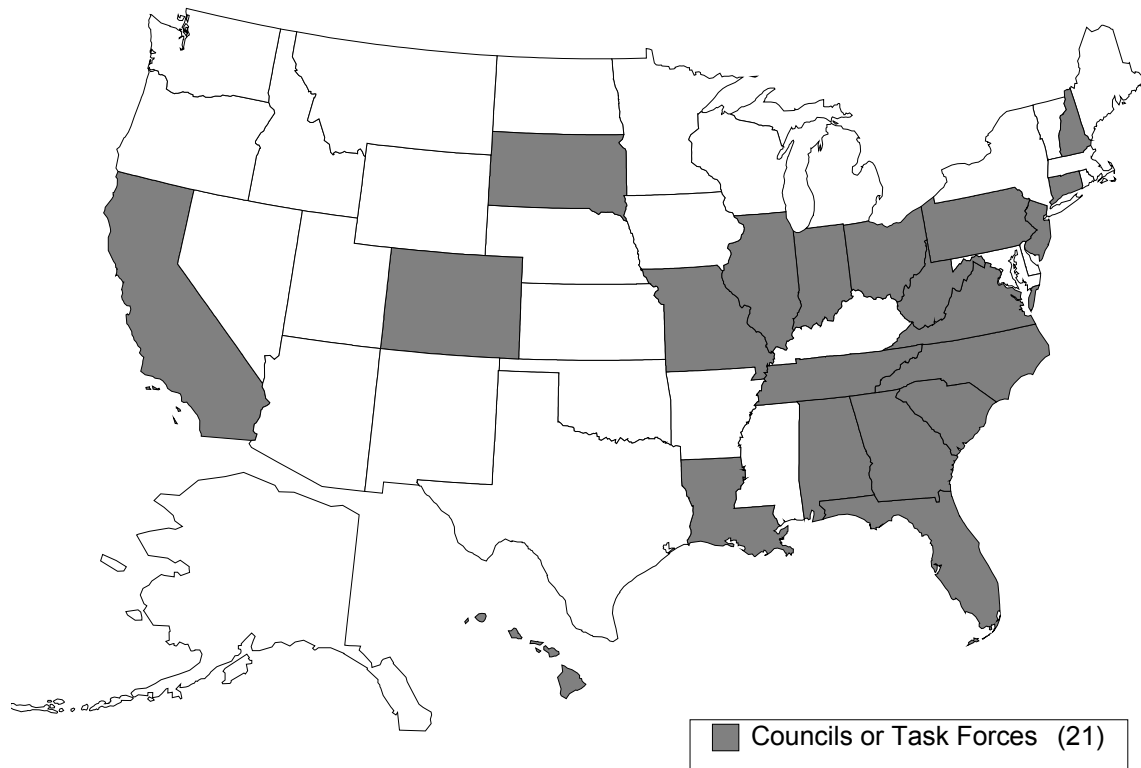


**Map 1: Homeland Security Offices**

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### **Councils and Task Forces**

Twenty-one states have organized councils or task forces to study and discuss a variety of anti-terrorism and homeland security issues (National Emergency Management Association 2002). Pennsylvania and Texas’ task forces provide a representative picture of the topics being covered by these task forces. Pennsylvania created a Task Force on Security to assess their preparedness for states of emergency and terrorist attacks. They focused on improving state and local emergency response plans by updating state facilities. Their task force has also recommended more easily accessible mutual aid among all state agencies in times of emergency (Pennsylvania Office of Homeland Security). The governor of Texas formed a Governor’s Task Force on Homeland Security to advise him on issues dealing with homeland security. The task force is charged with “Assuring Texans of state and local preparedness to respond to threats; Assessing the ability of state and local government agencies to respond to threats and to effectively provide victims assistance; Aiding coordination among federal, state and local efforts; and Developing recommendations on how to improve Texas’ ability to detect, deter and coordinate response to any terrorist events” (Texas Department of Emergency Management).

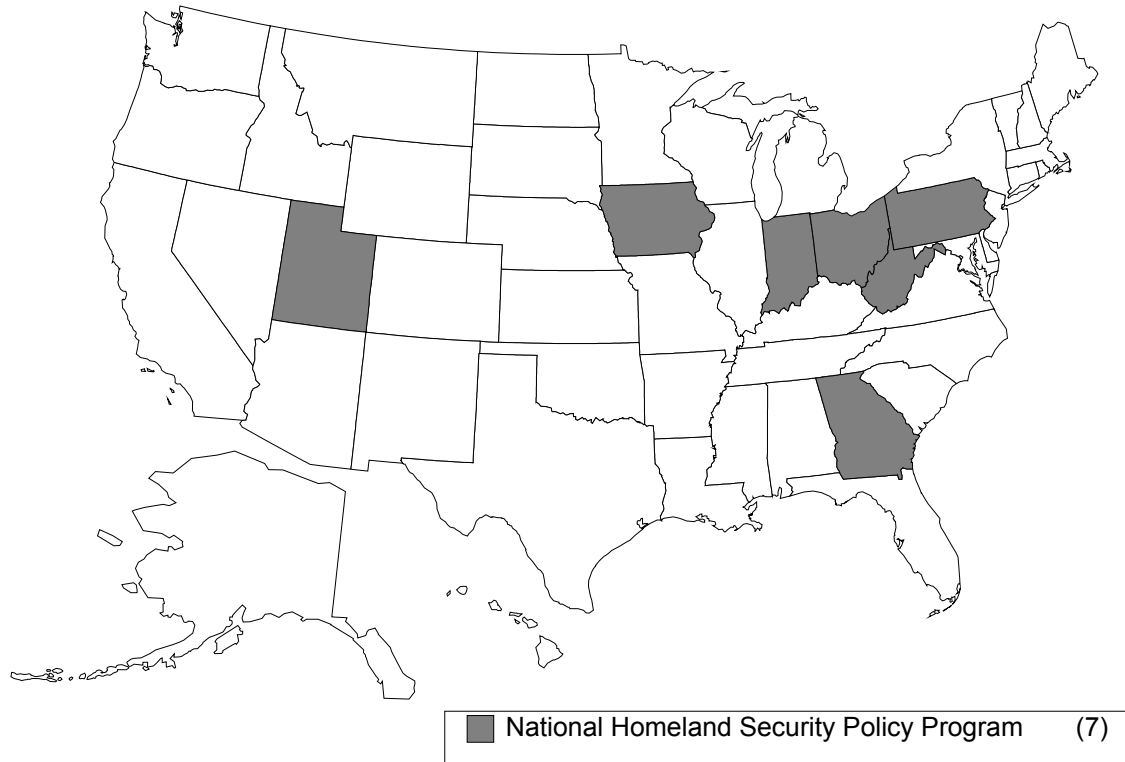


**Map 2: Councils and Task Forces**

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**National Homeland Security Policy Program**

Seven states and the US Virgin Islands were selected to join a specially funded project to help standardize homeland security policies in every state in the US. The six states, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Utah, and West Virginia were selected through a competitive application process. Georgia serves as a good example of what the states will be doing. They will have a first draft of an action plan signed by the Governor by spring, followed by 12 months of technical assistance, research and visits from consultants from the National Governor's Association and domestic terrorism experts. Finally, Georgia's policy team will develop and advance a "systematic plan of action to prepare for and respond to a terrorist or bio-terrorist incident" (Georgia Office of Homeland Security 2002).

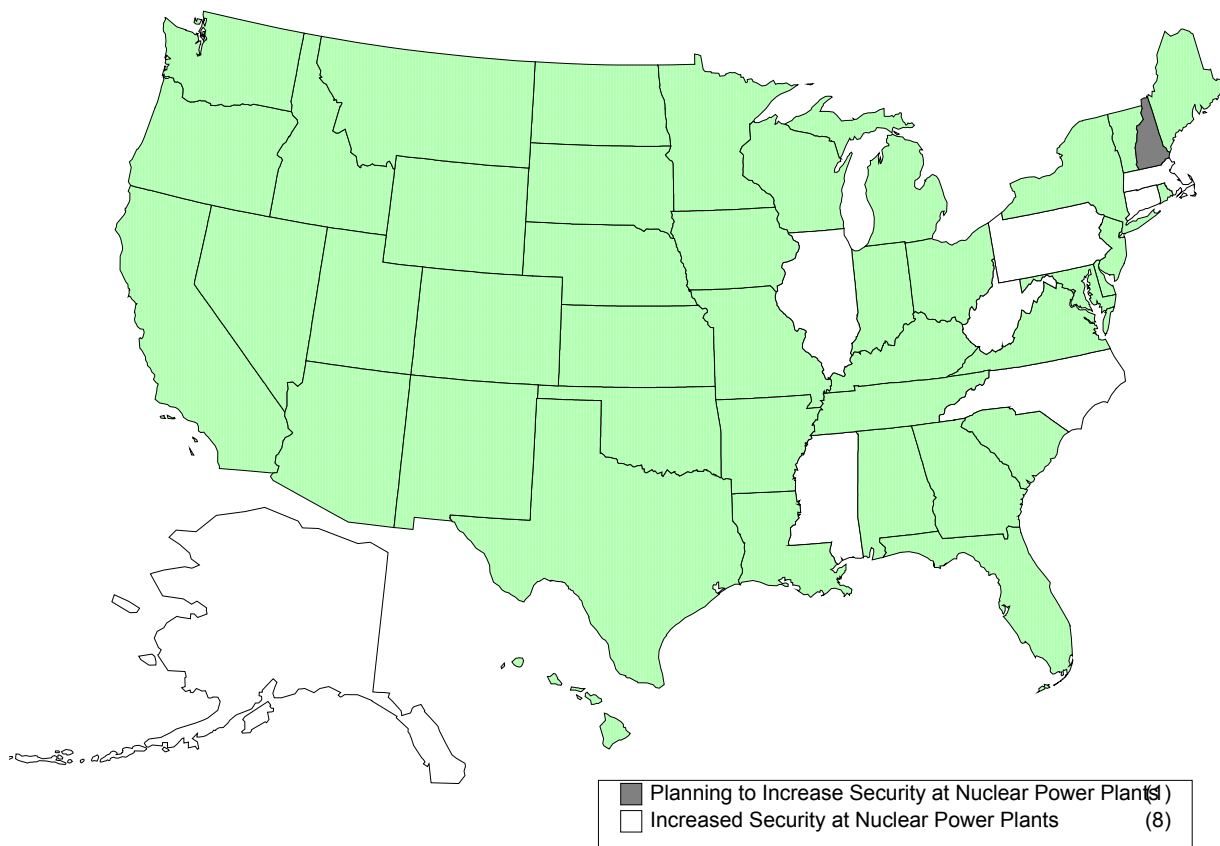


**Map 3: National Homeland Security Policy Program**

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### **Security at Nuclear Power Plants**

Nuclear Power Plants are clearly a potential target for terrorist attacks, and any successful attempt to do so would have catastrophic consequences. For this reason a number of states have increased the security surrounding them. Connecticut, Massachusetts, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Illinois have all reported that National Guard troops were serving to increase security at nuclear power plants and New Hampshire has said they are planning on doing so (National Emergency Management Association 2001). In Pennsylvania the state continues to assess and improve security at their nuclear power plants (Pennsylvania Office of Homeland Security).



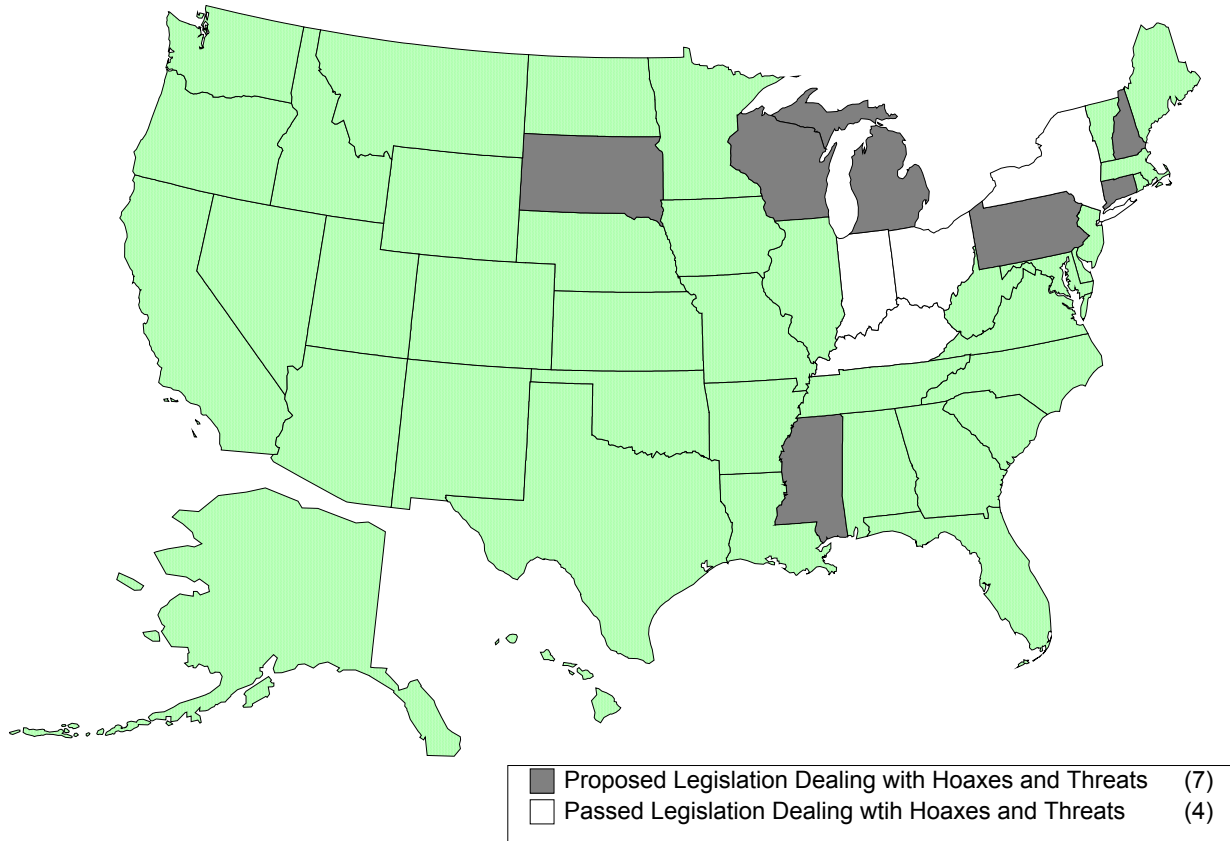
**Map 4: Security at Nuclear Power Plants**

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### Legislative Activity Relating to Hoaxes & Threats

Numerous states are considering and have passed legislation relating to terrorist threats or hoaxes. Those states that have already passed legislation include Indiana, Kentucky, New York, North Carolina, and Ohio. For example, Kentucky's state legislature passed laws establishing the penalties associated with terrorist threats. The state of New York passed legislation that makes it a crime to make terrorist threats, help terrorists, obstruct investigations into terrorist crimes, and to make false bomb threats. Penalties range from up to seven years for threats to death for committing a terrorist act (National Conference of State Legislatures 2001). North Carolina signed a bill that creates a new category of criminal penalty for certain weapons of mass destruction that sets mandatory minimums for transporting, storing or using such weapons, and if their use causes death, there will be a mandatory first-degree murder charge with the possibility of the death penalty. It also includes provisions for hoaxes that require five to fifteen years in prison (The State of North Carolina 2001). Those states with pending legislation include

Connecticut, Michigan, Mississippi, New Hampshire, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, and Wisconsin (National Emergency Management Association 2001).



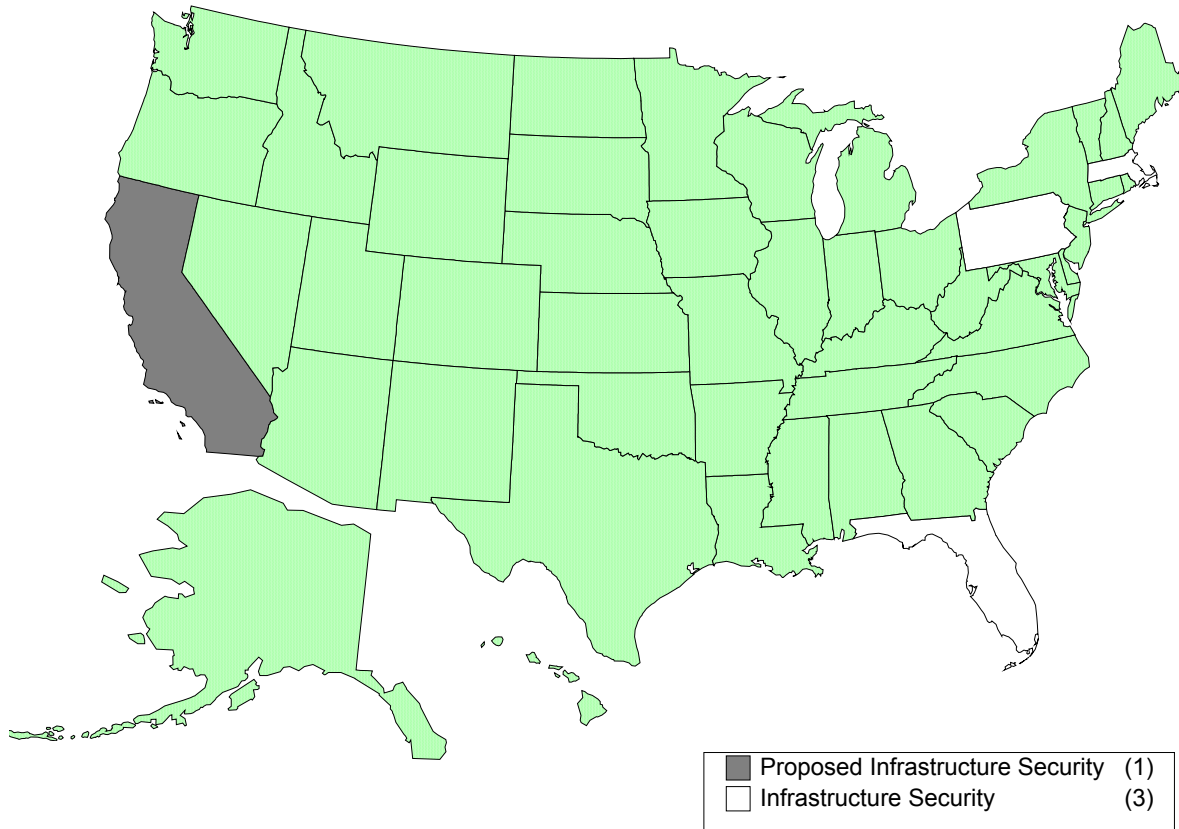
**Map 5: Legislative Activity Relating to Hoaxes and Threats**

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### Infrastructure Security

Few states have sought to assess and improve security at reservoirs, bridges, water supplies, and other infrastructure. The National Guard has served at critical infrastructure locations throughout Florida, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania (National Emergency Management Association 2001). Florida's Division of Emergency Management for example made a comprehensive assessment of their ability to mitigate and prevent terrorist activities relating to the destruction or tampering with their infrastructure. Their study found that it was necessary to place security at crucial locations to ensure their protection (Florida Department of Law Enforcement). An initiative was also passed that created penalties for the use of biological poisons to contaminate food and water supplies (National Conference of State Legislatures

2001). California and New Hampshire continue to assess the necessity of security at these locations (National Emergency Management Association 2001).



**Map 6: Infrastructure Security**

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Appendix: Table of State Responses to Terrorism

state	Homeland Security Office	Councils or Task Forces	Nuclear Power Plants Security	National Homeland Security Policy Program	Infrastructure Security	Laws related to hoaxes/threats
AL		1				
AK	1		1			
AZ	1					
AR						
CA	1	1			2	
CO		1				
CT		1	1			2
DE						
FL		1			1	
GA	1	1		1		
HI		1				
ID						
IL		1	1			
IN	1	1		1		1
IA	1			1		
KS						
KY	1					1
LA		1				
ME						
MD						
MA			1		1	
MI						2
MN	1					
MS			1			2

Key: 1: Implemented  
2: Proposed

Source: National Emergency Management Association 2001  
National Emergency Management Association 2002  
**National Governors Association 2002**

<b>state</b>	<b>Homeland Security Office</b>	<b>Councils or Task Forces</b>	<b>Nuclear Power Plants Security</b>	<b>National Homeland Security Policy Program</b>	<b>Infrastructure Security</b>	<b>Laws related to hoaxes/threats</b>
MO		1				
MT	1					
NE	1					
NV						
NH		1	2			2
NJ		1				
NM	1					
NY						1
NC	1	1	1			
ND	1					
OH	1	1		1		1
OK						
OR						
PA	1	1	1	1	1	2
RI						
SC	1	1				
SD	1	1				2
TN	1	1				
TX	1					
UT				1		
VT						
VA		1				
WA						
WV		1	1	1		
WI	1					2
WY	1					