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Joint Resolution to Release JFK Papers

Citizens' board would decide whether to declassify documents

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Responding to the movie "JFK" and an anti-government mood in the land, key lawmakers yesterday proposed legislation to release secret documents about the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

A joint resolution filed in both the House and Senate would set up a citizen review board to decide whether to declassify mountains of CIA, FBI and other government documents. The proposal includes a recommendation that the successor to the Soviet KGB release information that it holds on the case.

Senator David Boren, D-Okla., said at a news conference he had no reason to believe that the files would reveal "any comprehensive government conspiracy or illegal activity."

But because the public, "particularly the young people," distrusts the government's conclusion that Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in killing Kennedy, the records must be opened, said Boren, chairman of the Intelligence Committee.

Oliver Stone, director of "JFK," said the legislation "could be the

key that unlocks the answers to questions troubling Americans since 1963."

Lawmakers credited the movie with "heightening public interest" in the secret records. But they predicted that the documents would contain no stunning surprises.

Under the proposal, the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington would appoint a five-member citi-

zen board to review and decide on the release of assassination documents. In cases involving executive agencies such as the FBI or CIA, the president could overrule a decision by the review board.

Boren said documents or parts of documents could be kept secret if the information might damage U.S. foreign relations, disclose intelligence sources or methods or invade an individual's privacy.