

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8610

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Office of Health Security, make technical corrections to the authorization of the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office, establish a Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Advisory Committee, establish a departmental biodefense strategy, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 29, 2022

Mrs. DEMINGS (for herself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Ms. UNDERWOOD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Office of Health Security, make technical corrections to the authorization of the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office, establish a Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Advisory Committee, establish a departmental biodefense strategy, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
3 “Health Security and Countering Weapons of Mass De-
4 struction Act”.

5 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for
6 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—OFFICE OF HEALTH SECURITY

Sec. 101. Office of Health Security.

TITLE II—COUNTERING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION
OFFICE

Sec. 201. Technical corrections; Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Ad-
visory Committee; departmental biodefense strategy.

Sec. 202. Biodefense review and strategy.

Sec. 203. Sunset repealed.

Sec. 204. Comptroller General review.

7 **TITLE I—OFFICE OF HEALTH**
8 **SECURITY**

9 **SEC. 101. OFFICE OF HEALTH SECURITY.**

10 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Homeland Security Act
11 of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is amended—

12 (1) in section 103 (6 U.S.C. 113)—

13 (A) in subsection (a)(2), by striking “As-
14 sistant Secretary for Health Affairs, the Assist-
15 ant Secretary for Legislative Affairs,” and in-
16 serting “Assistant Secretary for Legislative Af-
17 fairs”; and

18 (B) in subsection (d), by adding at the end
19 the following new paragraph:

1 “(6) A Chief Medical Officer.”;

2 (2) by adding at the end the following new title:

3 **“TITLE XXIII—OFFICE OF**
4 **HEALTH SECURITY”;**

5 (3) by redesignating section 1931 (6 U.S.C.
6 597) as section 2301 and transferring such section,
7 as so redesignated, to appear after the heading for
8 title XXIII, as added by paragraph (2);

9 (4) in section 2301, as so redesignated and
10 transferred—

11 (A) by amending the section heading to
12 read as follows: **“OFFICE OF HEALTH SECU-**
13 **RITY”;**

14 (B) by amending subsection (a) to read as
15 follows:

16 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There is in the Department an
17 Office of Health Security.”;

18 (C) by amending subsection (b) to read as
19 follows:

20 “(b) HEAD OF OFFICE OF HEALTH SECURITY.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Office of Health Secu-
22 rity shall be headed by a Chief Medical Officer (in
23 this title referred to as the ‘Chief Medical Officer’),
24 who shall be at the level of Assistant Secretary with-
25 in the Department.

1 “(2) QUALIFICATIONS; DUTIES.—The Chief
2 Medical Officer shall—

3 “(A) be appointed by the President pursu-
4 ant to section 103(d);

5 “(B) be a licensed physician possessing a
6 demonstrated ability in and knowledge of medi-
7 cine and public health; and

8 “(C) report directly to the Secretary.”;

9 (D) in subsection (c)—

10 (i) in the matter preceding paragraph
11 (1), by striking “medical issues related to
12 natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and
13 other man-made disasters, including—”
14 and inserting “medical, public health, and
15 workforce health and safety matters, in-
16 cluding issues related to—”;

17 (ii) in paragraph (1), by striking “the
18 Secretary, the Administrator of the Fed-
19 eral Emergency Management Agency, the
20 Assistant Secretary, and other Department
21 officials” and inserting “the Secretary and
22 all other Department officials”;

23 (iii) in paragraph (4), by striking
24 “and” after the semicolon;

1 (iv) by redesignating paragraph (5) as
2 paragraph (10); and

3 (v) by inserting after paragraph (4)
4 the following new paragraphs:

5 “(5) delivering, advising, and supporting—

6 “(A) direct patient care; and

7 “(B) the organization, management, and
8 staffing of component operations that deliver
9 direct patient care;

10 “(6) advising the Secretary and the head of
11 each component of the Department that delivers di-
12 rect patient care regarding—

13 “(A) knowledge and skill standards for
14 medical personnel and the assessment of such
15 knowledge and skill;

16 “(B) the collection, storage, and oversight
17 of medical records; and

18 “(C) contracts for the delivery of direct pa-
19 tient care, other medical services, and medical
20 supplies;

21 “(7) advising the head of each component of
22 the Department that delivers direct patient care re-
23 garding the recruitment and appointment of a com-
24 ponent chief medical officer, or, as the case may be,

1 the employee who functions in the capacity of a com-
2 ponent chief medical officer;

3 “(8) with respect to any psychological health
4 counseling or assistance program of the Department,
5 including such a program of a law enforcement,
6 operational, or support component of the Depart-
7 ment, advising the head of each such component
8 with such a program regarding—

9 “(A) ensuring such program includes safe-
10 guards against adverse action, including auto-
11 matic referrals for a fitness for duty examina-
12 tion, by such component with respect to any
13 employee solely because such employee self-
14 identifies a need for psychological health coun-
15 seling or assistance or receives such counseling
16 or assistance;

17 “(B) increasing the availability and num-
18 ber of local psychological health professionals
19 with experience providing psychological support
20 services to personnel;

21 “(C) establishing a behavioral health cur-
22 riculum for employees at the beginning of their
23 careers to provide resources early regarding the
24 importance of psychological health;

1 “(D) establishing periodic management
2 training on crisis intervention and such compo-
3 nent’s psychological health counseling or assist-
4 ance program;

5 “(E) improving any associated existing em-
6 ployee peer support programs, including by
7 making additional training and resources avail-
8 able for peer support personnel in the work-
9 place across such component;

10 “(F) developing and implementing a vol-
11 untary alcohol treatment program that includes
12 a safe harbor for employees who seek treat-
13 ment;

14 “(G) prioritizing, as appropriate, cultural
15 competence in the provision of psychological
16 health counseling and assistance for certain
17 populations of the workforce, such as employees
18 serving in positions within law enforcement, to
19 help improve outcomes for such employees re-
20 ceiving such counseling or assistance; and

21 “(H) including collaborating and
22 partnering with key employee stakeholders and,
23 for those components with employees with an
24 exclusive representative, the exclusive represent-
25 ative with respect to such a program;

1 “(9) in consultation with the Chief Information
2 Officer of the Department—

3 “(A) identifying methods and technologies
4 for managing, updating, and overseeing patient
5 records; and

6 “(B) setting standards for technology used
7 by components of the Department regarding the
8 collection, storage, and oversight of medical
9 records; and”; and

10 (E) by adding at the end the following new
11 subsections:

12 “(d) ASSISTANCE AND AGREEMENTS.—In further-
13 ance of this section, the Chief Medical Officer, at the di-
14 rection of the Secretary, may—

15 “(1) provide technical assistance, training, in-
16 formation, and distribute funds through grants and
17 cooperative agreements to State, local, Tribal, and
18 territorial governments, and nongovernmental orga-
19 nizations;

20 “(2) enter into agreements with appropriate
21 Federal departments and other executive agencies;
22 and

23 “(3) accept services from personnel of compo-
24 nents of the Department and appropriate Federal

1 departments and other executive agencies on a reim-
2 bursable or nonreimbursable basis.

3 “(e) OFFICE OF HEALTH SECURITY PRIVACY OFFI-
4 CER.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There shall be a Privacy
6 Officer of the Office of Health Security, appointed
7 by the Chief Medical Officer in consultation with the
8 Privacy Officer of the Department, with primary re-
9 sponsibility for privacy policy and compliance within
10 the Office and with respect to the carrying out of re-
11 sponsibilities described in subsection (c).

12 “(2) DUTIES.—The Privacy Officer of the Of-
13 fice of Health Security shall—

14 “(A) report directly to the Chief Medical
15 Officer;

16 “(B) coordinate with and, as requested,
17 provide information to the Privacy Officer of
18 the Department; and

19 “(C) ensure privacy protections are inte-
20 grated into all activities of the Office of Health
21 Security, subject to the review and approval of
22 the Privacy Officer of the Department.

23 “(f) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than one year
24 after the date of the enactment of this subsection and an-
25 nually thereafter, the Chief Medical Officer shall submit

1 to Congress a report on the activities of the Office of
2 Health Security for the immediately preceding year.”;

3 (5) by redesignating section 710 (6 U.S.C. 350)
4 as section 2302 and transferring such section to ap-
5 pear after section 2301;

6 (6) in section 2302, as so redesignated and
7 transferred—

8 (A) in subsection (a), by striking “Under
9 Secretary of Management” each place such
10 term appears and inserting “Chief Medical Offi-
11 cer”; and

12 (B) in subsection (b)—

13 (i) in the matter preceding paragraph
14 (1), by striking “Under Secretary for Man-
15 agement, in coordination with the Chief
16 Medical Officer,” and inserting “Chief
17 Medical Officer”; and

18 (ii) in paragraph (3), by striking “as
19 deemed appropriate by the Under Sec-
20 retary,”;

21 (7) by redesignating section 528 (6 U.S.C.
22 321q) as section 2303 and transferring such section
23 to appear after section 2302; and

24 (8) in subsection (a) of section 2303, as so re-
25 designed and transferred, by striking “Assistant

1 Secretary for the Countering Weapons of Mass De-
2 struction Office” and inserting “Chief Medical Offi-
3 cer”.

4 (b) MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES PROGRAM.—The
5 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.)
6 is amended by redesignating section 1932 (6 U.S.C. 597a)
7 as section 2304 and transferring such section, as so redes-
8 ignated, to appear after section 2303 of title XXIII.

9 (c) TRANSITION AND TRANSFERS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The individual appointed
11 pursuant to section 1931(a) of the Homeland Secu-
12 rity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 597) (as such section ap-
13 peared on the day before the date of the enactment
14 of this Act) of the Department of Homeland Secu-
15 rity and serving as the Chief Medical Officer of the
16 Department of Homeland Security on the day before
17 such date of enactment, shall continue to serve as
18 the Chief Medical Officer of the Department after
19 such date without the need for reappointment.

20 (2) SAVING CLAUSE.—The rule of construction
21 set forth in section 2(hh) of the Presidential Ap-
22 pointment Efficiency and Streamlining Act of 2011
23 (Public Law 112–166, 5 U.S.C. 3132 note) shall not
24 apply to the Chief Medical Officer of the Depart-
25 ment of Homeland Security (including the incum-

1 bent who holds the position on the day before the
2 date of the enactment of this Act), and such officer
3 shall be a Senior Executive Service position (as that
4 term is defined in section 3132(a) of title 5, United
5 States Code) and receive the rate of basic pay for
6 level IV of the Executive Schedule (in accordance
7 with section 5315 of such title).

8 (3) TRANSFER.—The Secretary of Homeland
9 Security shall transfer to the Chief Medical Officer
10 all functions, personnel, budget authority, and assets
11 of—

12 (A) the Under Secretary for Management,
13 relating to workforce health and medical sup-
14 port;

15 (B) the Assistant Secretary for the Coun-
16 tering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office, re-
17 lating to the Chief Medical Officer (including
18 the Medical Operations Directorate of the
19 Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Of-
20 fice); and

21 (C) the Assistant Secretary for the Coun-
22 tering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office,
23 with respect to food, agriculture, and veterinary
24 defense programs of such Office,

1 as in existence on the day before the date of the en-
2 actment of this Act.

3 (d) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

4 The Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended—

5 (1) by redesignating section 529 (6 U.S.C.
6 321r) as section 528;

7 (2) in section 704(3)(4) (6 U.S.C. 344(e)(4)),
8 by striking “section 711(a)” and inserting “section
9 710(a)”;

10 (3) by redesignating sections 711 (6 U.S.C.
11 351), 712 (6 U.S.C. 352), and 713 (6 U.S.C. 353)
12 as sections 710, 711, and 712, respectively; and

13 (4) in title XIX, by striking the enumerator and
14 heading of subtitle C.

15 (e) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents
16 in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is
17 amended—

18 (1) by striking the item relating to section 528
19 (as in existence on the day before the date of the en-
20 actment of this Act);

21 (2) by redesignating the item relating to section
22 529 as the item relating to section 528;

23 (3) by striking the item relating to section 710
24 (as in existence on the day before the date of the en-
25 actment of this Act);

1 (4) by redesignating the items relating to sec-
 2 tions 711, 712, and 713 as the items relating to sec-
 3 tions 710, 711, and 712, respectively;

4 (5) by inserting after the item relating to sec-
 5 tion 1900 the following new item:

“Sec. 1900A. Rule of construction.”;

6 (6) by inserting after the item relating to sec-
 7 tion 1928 the following new item:

“Sec. 1929. Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Advisory Committee.”;

8 (7) by striking the items relating to subtitle C
 9 of title XIX (as in existence on the day before the
 10 date of the enactment of this Act); and

11 (8) by adding at the end the following new
 12 items:

“TITLE XXIII—OFFICE OF HEALTH SECURITY

“Sec. 2301. Office of Health Security.

“Sec. 2302. Workforce health and medical support.

“Sec. 2303. Coordination of Department of Homeland Security efforts related
 to food, agriculture, and veterinary defense against terrorism.

“Sec. 2304. Medical countermeasures.”.

1 **TITLE II—COUNTERING WEAP-**
 2 **ONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION**
 3 **OFFICE**

4 **SEC. 201. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS; COUNTERING WEAP-**
 5 **ONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION ADVISORY COM-**
 6 **MITTEE; DEPARTMENTAL BIODEFENSE**
 7 **STRATEGY.**

8 Title XIX of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6
 9 U.S.C. 591 et seq.) is amended—

10 (1) in the matter preceding subtitle A, by in-
 11 serting after section 1900 the following new section:

12 **“SEC. 1900A. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

13 “Nothing in this title may be construed as affecting
 14 in any manner or respect the operation of the Chemical
 15 Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program of the Cyber-
 16 security and Infrastructure Security Agency or title
 17 XXI.”;

18 (2) in subtitle A, in section 1901(c) (6 U.S.C.
 19 591(c))—

20 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
 21 by striking “serve as the Secretary’s principal
 22 advisor on”; and

23 (B) by striking paragraphs (1) and (2) and
 24 inserting the following new paragraphs:

1 “(1) serve as the Secretary’s principal advisor
2 on matters and strategies relating to—

3 “(A) countering weapons of mass destruc-
4 tion; and

5 “(B) non-medical aspects of chemical, bio-
6 logical, radiological, and nuclear threats, and
7 non-conventional emerging terrorism threats;

8 “(2) coordinate the efforts of the Department
9 to counter—

10 “(A) weapons of mass destruction;

11 “(B) non-medical aspects of chemical, bio-
12 logical, radiological, and nuclear threats; and

13 “(C) other related emerging terrorism
14 threats; and

15 “(3) enhance the ability of Federal, State, local,
16 Tribal, and territorial partners to prevent, detect,
17 protect against, and mitigate the impacts of terrorist
18 attacks in the United States involving—

19 “(A) weapons of mass destruction; or

20 “(B) non-medical aspects of chemical, bio-
21 logical, radiological, and nuclear threats, and
22 non-conventional emerging terrorism threats.”;
23 and

24 (3) in subtitle B—

1 (A) in section 1921 (6 U.S.C. 591g), by
2 striking “The Office shall be responsible” and
3 all that follows through “interests of the United
4 States.” and inserting the following: “The Of-
5 fice shall be responsible for—

6 “(1) coordinating the Department’s efforts and
7 with other Federal Departments and agencies to
8 counter weapons of mass destruction and non-med-
9 ical aspects of chemical, biological, radiological, and
10 nuclear threats, and non-conventional emerging ter-
11 rorism threats; and

12 “(2) enhancing the ability of Federal, State,
13 local, Tribal, and territorial partners to prevent, de-
14 tect, protect against, and mitigate the impacts of—

15 “(A) weapons of mass destruction; and

16 “(B) non-medical aspects of chemical, bio-
17 logical, radiological, and nuclear threats, and
18 non-conventional emerging terrorism threats.”;

19 (B) in section 1923(a) (6 U.S.C.
20 592(a))—

21 (i) by redesignating paragraphs (13)
22 and (14) as paragraphs (18) and (19), re-
23 spectively; and

24 (ii) by inserting after paragraph (12)
25 the following new paragraphs:

1 “(13) serve as the primary entity within the
2 Department responsible for developing, acquiring,
3 deploying, supporting, and operating a national bio-
4 surveillance system in support of Federal, State,
5 local, Tribal, and territorial governments;

6 “(14) support the enhancement of chemical and
7 biological detection efforts of Federal, State, local,
8 Tribal, and territorial governments, and provide
9 guidance, tools, and training to help ensure a man-
10 aged, coordinated response among such entities;

11 “(15) collaborate with relevant Federal stake-
12 holders, and receive input from industry, academia,
13 and the national laboratories regarding chemical and
14 biological surveillance efforts;

15 “(16) carry out a program to test and evaluate,
16 in consultation with the Science and Technology Di-
17 rectorate and, as appropriate, State, local, Tribal,
18 and territorial partners, and in coordination with
19 other relevant Federal agencies, technology to detect
20 and report on chemical, biological, radiological, and
21 nuclear weapons or unauthorized material for use by
22 the Department and such partners, and establish
23 performance metrics to evaluate the effectiveness of
24 individual detectors and detection systems in detect-
25 ing such weapons or material—

1 “(A) under realistic operational and envi-
2 ronmental conditions; and

3 “(B) against realistic adversary tactics and
4 countermeasures;

5 “(17) conduct, support, coordinate, and encour-
6 age, in consultation with State, local, Tribal, and
7 territorial partners, and in coordination with the
8 Science and Technology Directorate, trans-
9 formational research and development efforts to gen-
10 erate new technologies to detect, protect against,
11 and report on the illicit entry across the United
12 States borders, or the transport, assembly, or use
13 within the United States of chemical, biological, ra-
14 diological, and nuclear weapons or unauthorized ma-
15 terial;”;

16 (C) by adding at the end the following new
17 section:

18 **“SEC. 1929. COUNTERING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUC-**
19 **TION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

20 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
21 Office a Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Advi-
22 sory Committee (in this section referred to as the ‘Advi-
23 sory Committee’). The Advisory Committee shall make
24 recommendations with respect to the activities of the Of-
25 fice.

1 “(b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Assistant Secretary shall
2 appoint not more than 18 individuals to serve as members
3 of the Advisory Committee. Such individuals shall rep-
4 resent, to the extent practicable, a geographic (including
5 urban and rural) and substantive cross section of officials
6 from State, local, and Tribal governments, academia, the
7 private sector, and nongovernmental organizations. The
8 Assistant Secretary shall seek to ensure one-third of the
9 members are selected from the emergency management
10 field and emergency response providers and State, local,
11 and Tribal government officials. The Assistant Secretary
12 shall seek to ensure the remaining members are—

13 “(1) individuals from the public or private sec-
14 tors with expertise in chemical, biological, radio-
15 logical, or nuclear agents and weapons;

16 “(2) representatives from the national labora-
17 tories; and

18 “(3) such other individuals as the Assistant
19 Secretary determines appropriate.

20 “(c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Advisory Committee
21 shall—

22 “(1) advise the Assistant Secretary on all as-
23 pects of countering weapons of mass destruction;

24 “(2) incorporate State, local, and Tribal govern-
25 ment, national laboratories, and private sector input

1 in the development of the strategy and implementa-
2 tion plan of the Department for countering weapons
3 of mass destruction; and

4 “(3) establish performance criteria for a na-
5 tional biological detection system and review any as-
6 sociated testing protocols for biological detection
7 prototypes.

8 “(d) CONSULTATION.—The Assistant Secretary shall
9 regularly consult and work with the Advisory Committee
10 regarding the Office’s activities, including with respect to
11 activities associated with the administration of Federal as-
12 sistance provided by the Department, and the development
13 of requirements for countering weapons of mass destruc-
14 tion programs.

15 “(e) VOLUNTARY SERVICE AND TERMS.—The mem-
16 bers of the Advisory Committee shall serve on the Advisory
17 Committee on a voluntary basis. Members of may serve
18 for up to three consecutive years, but a member appointed
19 to fill a vacancy occurring before the expiration of the
20 term for which such member’s predecessor was appointed
21 may be appointed for the remainder of such term.

22 “(f) FACA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act
23 (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Advisory Com-
24 mittee.”.

1 **SEC. 202. BIODEFENSE REVIEW AND STRATEGY.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the Homeland Security
3 Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 311 et seq.) is amended by inserting
4 after section 515 (6 U.S.C. 321d) the following new sec-
5 tion:

6 **“SEC. 516. DEPARTMENT-WIDE BIODEFENSE REVIEW AND**
7 **STRATEGY.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after
9 the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary,
10 in consultation with appropriate stakeholders representing
11 Federal, State, Tribal, territorial, academic, private sec-
12 tor, and nongovernmental entities, shall conduct a Depart-
13 ment-wide review of biodefense activities and strategies.

14 “(b) REVIEW.—The review required under subsection
15 (a) shall—

16 “(1) identify with specificity the biodefense
17 lines of effort of the Department, including relating
18 to biodefense roles, responsibilities, and capabilities
19 of components and offices of the Department;

20 “(2) assess how such components and offices
21 coordinate internally and with public and private
22 partners in the biodefense enterprise;

23 “(3) identify any policy, resource, capability, or
24 other gaps in the Department’s ability to assess,
25 prevent, protect against, and respond to biological
26 threats; and

1 “(4) identify any organizational changes or re-
2 forms necessary for the Department to effectively
3 execute its biodefense mission and role, including
4 with respect to public and private partners in the
5 biodefense enterprise.

6 “(c) STRATEGY.—Not later than one year after com-
7 pletion of the review required under subsection (a), the
8 Secretary shall issue a biodefense strategy for the Depart-
9 ment that is informed by such review and is aligned with
10 section 1086 of the National Defense Authorization Act
11 for Fiscal Year 2017 (6 U.S.C. 104; relating to the devel-
12 opment of a national biodefense strategy and associated
13 implementation plan, including a review and assessment
14 of biodefense policies, practices, programs, and initiatives)
15 or successor strategy. Such strategy shall—

16 “(1) describe the Department’s biodefense mis-
17 sion and role, as well as how such relates to the bio-
18 defense lines of effort of the Department;

19 “(2) clarify, as necessary, biodefense roles, re-
20 sponsibilities, and capabilities of the Department’s
21 components and offices involved in the biodefense
22 lines of effort of the Department;

23 “(3) establish how biodefense lines of effort of
24 the Department are to be coordinated within the De-
25 partment;

1 “(4) establish how the Department engages
2 with public and private partners in the biodefense
3 enterprise, including other Federal agencies, na-
4 tional laboratories and sites, and State, local, Tribal,
5 and territorial entities, with specificity regarding the
6 frequency and nature of such engagement by De-
7 partment components and offices with State, local,
8 Tribal and territorial entities; and

9 “(5) include information relating to—

10 “(A) milestones and performance metrics
11 that are specific to the Department’s biodefense
12 mission and role described in paragraph (1);
13 and

14 “(B) implementation of any operational
15 changes necessary to carry out paragraphs (3)
16 and (4).

17 “(d) PERIODIC UPDATE.—Beginning not later than
18 five years after the issuance of the strategy and implemen-
19 tation plans required under subsection (c) and not less
20 often than once every five years thereafter, the Secretary
21 shall review and update, as necessary, such strategy and
22 plans.”.

23 (b) CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.—Not later than 30
24 days after the issuance of the biodefense strategy and im-
25 plementation plans for the Department of Homeland Se-

1 curity required under section 516(c) of the Homeland Se-
2 curity Act of 2002, as added by subsection (a), the Sec-
3 retary of Homeland Security shall brief the Committee on
4 Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and
5 the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental
6 Affairs of the Senate regarding such strategy and plans.

7 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
8 in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is
9 amended by inserting after the item relating to section
10 515 the following new item:

“Sec. 516. Department-wide biodefense review and strategy.”.

11 **SEC. 203. SUNSET REPEALED.**

12 Subsection (e) of section 1901 of the Homeland Secu-
13 rity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 591) is repealed.

14 **SEC. 204. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW.**

15 Not later than one year after the date of the enact-
16 ment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United
17 States shall report to the Committee on Homeland Secu-
18 rity of the House of Representatives and the Committee
19 on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the
20 Senate regarding the implementation of section 516 of the
21 Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 202,
22 including information relating to the following:

23 (1) The Office’s efforts to prioritize its pro-
24 grams and activities to conduct the Office’s mission

1 to safeguard against chemical, biological, radio-
2 logical, and nuclear threats.

3 (2) The consistency and effectiveness of the Of-
4 fice's efforts at coordinating with State, local, Trib-
5 al, and territorial entities and international partners
6 across its mission areas.

7 (3) The Office's efforts to manage the lifecycle
8 of research and development within the Office and
9 with other operational and support components of
10 the Department of Homeland Security, including the
11 Science and Technology Directorate.

12 (4) Any actions by the Office to measure
13 progress in addressing employee engagement and
14 improving employee morale across the Office.

15 (5) The extent and effectiveness of the Office's
16 coordination with other operational and support
17 components, including the Science and Technology
18 Directorate, of the Department regarding research
19 and development projects.

20 (6) The Office's efforts to prioritize its research
21 and development funding, including to address
22 emerging chemical, biological, radiological, and nu-
23 clear threats.

○