

Union Calendar No. 180

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1608

[Report No. 119–222]

To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to produce a report on emerging threats and countermeasures related to vehicular terrorism, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 26, 2025

Mr. GIMENEZ (for himself and Mr. GREEN of Tennessee) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

AUGUST 8, 2025

Additional sponsor: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana

AUGUST 8, 2025

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italie*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on February 26, 2025]

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to produce a report on emerging threats and countermeasures related to vehicular terrorism, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “Department of Home-*
5 *land Security Vehicular Terrorism Prevention and Mitiga-*
6 *tion Act of 2025”.*

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 *Congress finds the following:*

9 *(1) On January 1, 2025, a devastating vehicular*
10 *terrorist attack occurred on Bourbon Street in New*
11 *Orleans, Louisiana, when an assailant inspired by*
12 *the Islamic State drove a vehicle into a crowd and*
13 *engaged in a shootout with law enforcement. This*
14 *tragic incident resulted in the loss of 14 lives and in-*
15 *juries to at least thirty-five others, including two po-*
16 *lice officers.*

17 *(2) Vehicle-ramming attacks and other vehicular*
18 *terrorist incidents represent an enduring and evolving*
19 *threat to public safety in the United States and*
20 *around the world, targeting innocent civilians and*
21 *first responders.*

22 *(3) These attacks, carried out by both organized*
23 *terrorist groups and individual actors, often aim to*
24 *exploit high-density public gatherings, critical infra-*

1 *structure, and key transportation hubs, causing mass*
 2 *casualties and widespread disruption.*

3 (4) *Emerging automotive technologies, such as*
 4 *autonomous vehicles, Advanced Driver Assistance*
 5 *System (ADAS) capabilities, and ride-sharing plat-*
 6 *forms, create new vulnerabilities that could be lever-*
 7 *aged by malicious actors to conduct sophisticated ve-*
 8 *hicle-based attacks.*

9 (5) *The Department of Homeland Security,*
 10 *through agencies like the Transportation Security Ad-*
 11 *ministration and the Cybersecurity and Infrastruc-*
 12 *ture Security Agency, plays a vital role in detecting,*
 13 *assessing, and mitigating the risks associated with ve-*
 14 *hicle-based threats.*

15 (6) *Strengthened coordination between Federal,*
 16 *State, local, Tribal, territorial, and private sector*
 17 *stakeholders is essential to enhance prevention, pre-*
 18 *paredness, and response efforts, ensuring the safety of*
 19 *communities across the nation.*

20 **SEC. 3. REPORT ON EMERGING THREATS AND COUNTER-**
 21 **MEASURES RELATED TO VEHICULAR TER-**
 22 **RORISM.**

23 (a) *REPORT.—*

24 (1) *IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after*
 25 *the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of*

1 *Homeland Security, in coordination with the Admin-*
2 *istrator of the Transportation Security Administra-*
3 *tion and the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infra-*
4 *structure Security Agency, shall submit to the appro-*
5 *priate congressional committees a report on the De-*
6 *partment of Homeland Security's efforts to prevent,*
7 *deter, and respond to vehicular terrorism.*

8 (2) *ELEMENTS.*—*The report under paragraph*
9 *(1) shall include the following:*

10 (A) *An assessment of the current and*
11 *emerging threats posed by vehicular terrorism, as*
12 *well as the following:*

13 (i) *An analysis of the methods, tactics,*
14 *and motivations used by perpetrators of ve-*
15 *hicular terrorism.*

16 (ii) *An evaluation of domestic and*
17 *international trends in vehicular terrorism.*

18 (iii) *An identification of potential fu-*
19 *ture threats related to the misuse of con-*
20 *nected or autonomous vehicles, Advanced*
21 *Driver Assistance System (ADAS)*
22 *-equipped vehicles, ride-sharing services,*
23 *and advancements in automotive tech-*
24 *nologies, including cybersecurity threats to*
25 *underlying software technologies (including*

1 *artificial intelligence-enabled technologies)*
2 *powering autonomous vehicles.*

3 *(B) A review of higher-risk locations and*
4 *events that may be vulnerable to vehicular ter-*
5 *rorism, including the following:*

6 *(i) Critical infrastructure sites such as*
7 *the following:*

8 *(I) Airports.*

9 *(II) Seaports.*

10 *(III) Federal, State, local, Tribal,*
11 *and territorial government facilities.*

12 *(IV) Power plants.*

13 *(V) Substations.*

14 *(VI) Oil refineries.*

15 *(VII) Public transportation hubs.*

16 *(VIII) Healthcare facilities.*

17 *(ii) Soft-targets and crowded spaces,*
18 *including mass gatherings and widely at-*
19 *tended events such as parades, concerts,*
20 *sporting events, political rallies, holiday*
21 *markets, places of worship, public dem-*
22 *onstrations, and ceremonial events.*

23 *(iii) High-density urban areas with*
24 *limited physical security measures such as*
25 *pedestrianized city centers, commercial dis-*

1 *tricts, residential neighborhoods, public*
2 *parks, recreational areas, educational insti-*
3 *tutions, and tourist destinations.*

4 *(C) A comprehensive summary of actions*
5 *taken by the Department of Homeland Security,*
6 *the Transportation Security Administration,*
7 *and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Secu-*
8 *rity Agency to research measures that prevent,*
9 *deter, and respond to vehicular terrorism, in-*
10 *cluding the following:*

11 *(i) The identification and coordination*
12 *with State, local, Tribal, and territorial*
13 *governments and industry partners for the*
14 *strategic placement of physical barriers,*
15 *bollards, and other protective infrastructure*
16 *at higher-risk locations.*

17 *(ii) The research, testing, and deploy-*
18 *ment of geofencing, surveillance systems, cy-*
19 *bersecurity measures, and other technologies*
20 *designed to monitor, restrict, and manage*
21 *vehicle access to such higher-risk locations.*

22 *(iii) The creation of real-time response*
23 *strategies and operational plans to neu-*
24 *tralize vehicular terrorism, including ongo-*
25 *ing research into best practices for threat*

1 *detection, incident management, and threat*
2 *containment.*

3 *(D) An evaluation of the Department's en-*
4 *gagement with private and public sector stake-*
5 *holders to address risks of vehicular terrorism,*
6 *including the following:*

7 *(i) Collaboration with vehicle rental*
8 *companies, ride-sharing platforms, vendors*
9 *of connected, autonomous, and ADAS tech-*
10 *nologies, freight operators, and automotive*
11 *manufacturers.*

12 *(ii) Development of industry-specific*
13 *best practices to prevent the misuse of vehi-*
14 *cles.*

15 *(iii) Protocols for sharing threat intel-*
16 *ligence and security guidance with private*
17 *sector partners.*

18 *(E) A description of the Department's co-*
19 *ordination efforts with Federal, State, local,*
20 *Tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies*
21 *to prevent vehicular terrorism, including the fol-*
22 *lowing:*

23 *(i) Mechanisms for sharing threat in-*
24 *telligence and situational awareness.*

1 (ii) Guidance provided to such law en-
2 forcement agencies regarding implementing
3 countermeasures, such as traffic control
4 measures and rapid vehicle containment
5 protocols.

6 (iii) Joint exercises and training pro-
7 grams to enhance interagency preparedness
8 and response.

9 (iv) Efforts to equip law enforcement,
10 first responders, and private sector partners
11 with the knowledge and skills to recognize
12 and respond to vehicular terrorism, includ-
13 ing the development of specialized curricula
14 addressing emerging threats, such as con-
15 nected or autonomous vehicles and other ad-
16 vanced technologies.

17 (v) Outreach efforts to ensure that
18 smaller jurisdictions have access to nec-
19 essary training resources and public safety
20 awareness tools.

21 (F) Recommendations for the research, de-
22 velopment, and deployment of technologies to de-
23 tect, deter, and mitigate vehicular terrorism, in-
24 cluding the following:

1 (i) *Vehicle immobilization systems and*
2 *remote disablement technologies.*

3 (ii) *Predictive analytics and threat de-*
4 *tection software that incorporate artificial*
5 *intelligence and machine learning algo-*
6 *rithms to identify and flag in real time*
7 *anomalous or suspicious vehicle behavior, as*
8 *well as associated technologies to disable or*
9 *divert a vehicle before it becomes a threat.*

10 (iii) *Innovations in cybersecurity to*
11 *prevent the hacking or misuse of connected,*
12 *autonomous, or ADAS-equipped vehicles.*

13 (G) *A description of the Department's en-*
14 *gagement with privacy, civil rights, and civil*
15 *liberties stakeholders to ensure all counter-*
16 *measures and technologies, including artificial-*
17 *intelligence and machine learning algorithms,*
18 *deployed to prevent vehicular terrorism are im-*
19 *plemented in a manner that respects individual*
20 *rights and freedoms.*

21 (H) *A review of the Department's public*
22 *awareness initiatives focused on the following:*

23 (i) *Educating the public on recog-*
24 *nizing suspicious vehicle-related behavior*
25 *and reporting potential threats.*

1 (ii) *Building trust and fostering col-*
2 *laboration between communities and law*
3 *enforcement agencies.*

4 (iii) *Enhancing resilience by encour-*
5 *aging community-based security measures.*

6 (I) *Such other elements as the Secretary of*
7 *Homeland Security considers appropriate.*

8 (3) *FORM.—The report under paragraph (1)*
9 *shall be submitted in classified form, but may include*
10 *an unclassified executive summary.*

11 (4) *PUBLICATION.—The unclassified executive*
12 *summary of the report required under paragraph (1)*
13 *shall be published on a publicly accessible website of*
14 *the Department of Homeland Security.*

15 (b) *BRIEFING.—Not later than 30 days after the sub-*
16 *mission of the report under subsection (a), the Secretary*
17 *of Homeland Security shall provide to the appropriate con-*
18 *gressional committees a briefing on the findings, conclu-*
19 *sions, and recommendations of such report.*

20 (c) *DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

21 (1) *APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-*
22 *TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional commit-*
23 *tees” means—*

24 (A) *the Committee on Homeland Security of*
25 *the House of Representatives; and*

1 *(B) the Committee on Commerce, Science,*
2 *and Transportation and the Committee on*
3 *Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of*
4 *the Senate.*

5 *(2) VEHICULAR TERRORISM.—The term “vehic-*
6 *ular terrorism” means an action that utilizes auto-*
7 *motive transportation to commit terrorism (as such*
8 *term is defined in section 2(18) of the Homeland Se-*
9 *curity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101(18))).*

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