

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8656

To require the Department of Justice to procure ballistic-resistant body armor manufactured using domestic ballistic fibers.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 4, 2026

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana (for himself, Mr. HARRIGAN, and Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To require the Department of Justice to procure ballistic-resistant body armor manufactured using domestic ballistic fibers.

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 “Ballistic Armor Made
5 in America Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. RULES RELATED TO PROCUREMENT OF BALLISTIC-**
7 **RESISTANT BODY ARMOR.**

8 (a) REQUIRED DISCLOSURE OF SOURCE OF MATE-
9 RIALS.—

1 (1) DISCLOSURE.—Beginning not later than 60
2 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
3 Director of the National Institute of Justice shall re-
4 quire any entity, including a company or manufac-
5 turer, that submits or has submitted ballistic-resist-
6 ant body armor to the National Institute of Justice’s
7 Compliance Testing Program to disclose each coun-
8 try where such armor is manufactured and where
9 ballistic fibers contained in such armor are grown,
10 reprocessed, reused, recycled, or produced.

11 (2) PUBLICATION.—Not later than 90 days
12 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Di-
13 rector of the National Institute of Justice shall—

14 (A) add as a part of the information listed
15 for each ballistic-resistant body armor model on
16 the compliant products list, including any bal-
17 listic-resistant armor model on the compliant
18 product list prior to the date of the enactment
19 of this Act, each disclosure required under
20 paragraph (1); and

21 (B) update, as soon as reasonably possible
22 and in not more than 30 days, the compliant
23 products list each time ballistic-resistant body
24 armor model has been certified by the National

1 Institute of Justice as meeting the latest stand-
2 ard for such armor.

3 (3) MADE IN AMERICA.—No product listed on
4 the compliant products list that discloses ballistic fi-
5 bers grown, reprocessed, reused, recycled, or pro-
6 duced outside of the United States of America may
7 use any markings, symbols or other language related
8 to the designation of “Made in America”.

9 (4) EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES.—The Director
10 of the National Institute of Justice shall determine
11 if the requirements under paragraphs (1) through
12 (3) shall apply to any advanced materials used to re-
13 place ballistic fibers in the manufacturing of bal-
14 listic-resistant body armor.

15 (b) PROHIBITION ON PROCUREMENT FROM OUTSIDE
16 OF THE UNITED STATES.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 31 of title 28,
18 United States Code, is amended by inserting after
19 section 509B the following:

20 **“§ 509C. Domestic Sourcing Requirement for Depart-**
21 **ment Procurements**

22 “(a) PROHIBITION.—The Attorney General may not
23 use funds appropriated or otherwise available to the De-
24 partment of Justice for the procurement of ballistic-resist-
25 ant body armor if such armor is manufactured from or

1 contains ballistic fibers that are grown, reprocessed, re-
2 used, recycled, or produced outside of the United States.

3 “(b) EXCEPTIONS.—The prohibition under sub-
4 section (a) shall not apply if the Attorney General deter-
5 mines that ballistic-resistant body armor manufactured
6 from or containing ballistic fibers that are grown, repro-
7 cessed, reused, recycled, or produced in the United States
8 cannot be procured as and when needed at United States
9 market prices or if the ballistic fibers have been found to
10 be in compliance with the section 4862 of title 10, United
11 States Code (commonly known as the ‘Berry Amendment’)
12 and section 604 of the American Recovery and Reinvest-
13 ment Act of 2009 (6 U.S.C. 453b) (commonly known as
14 the ‘Kissel Amendment’).

15 “(c) DEFINITION.—In this section:

16 “(1) BALLISTIC-RESISTANT BODY ARMOR.—The
17 term ‘ballistic-resistant body armor’ means an item
18 of personal protective equipment, consisting of hard
19 armor or soft armor, that is intended to protect the
20 wearer from threats, including ballistic threats, stab-
21 bing, fragmentation, and blunt impact.

22 “(2) HARD ARMOR.—The term ‘hard armor’
23 means an item of personal protective equipment that
24 is constructed of rigid materials and is used in the
25 composition of ballistic-resistant body armor.

1 “(3) SOFT ARMOR.—The term ‘soft armor’
 2 means an item of personal protective equipment con-
 3 structed of pliable or flexible materials and is used
 4 in the composition of ballistic-resistant body
 5 armor.”.

6 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
 7 tents for chapter 31 of title 28, United States Code,
 8 is amended by inserting after the item relating to
 9 section 509B the following:

“509C. Domestic Sourcing Requirement for Department Procurements.”.

10 (c) KNOW BEFORE YOU BUY TRAINING.—The Direc-
 11 tor of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers
 12 shall provide an educational training program for any
 13 State or local governmental entity that has applied for or
 14 has received a grant from the Department of Justice to
 15 purchase ballistic-resistant body armor regarding the dis-
 16 closure requirement under subsection (a)(1).

17 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 (1) BALLISTIC-RESISTANT BODY ARMOR.—The
 19 term “ballistic-resistant body armor” means an item
 20 of personal protective equipment, consisting of hard
 21 armor or soft armor, that is intended to protect the
 22 wearer from threats, including ballistic threats, stab-
 23 bing, fragmentation, and blunt impact.

24 (2) COMPLIANT PRODUCTS LIST.—The term
 25 “compliant products list” means the official list of

1 ballistic-resistant body armor that have been cer-
2 tified by the National Institute of Justice and is
3 published as the “Compliant Products List: Ballistic
4 Resistant Armor” (or a subsequent list) on the
5 internet website of the Department of Justice.

6 (3) **HARD ARMOR.**—The term “hard armor”
7 means an item of personal protective equipment that
8 is constructed of rigid materials and is used in the
9 composition of ballistic-resistant body armor.

10 (4) **SOFT ARMOR.**—The term “soft armor”
11 means an item of personal protective equipment con-
12 structed of pliable or flexible materials and is used
13 in the composition of ballistic-resistant body armor.

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