

DHS BASIC TRAINING ACCREDITATION IMPROVEMENT  
ACT OF 2023

DECEMBER 5, 2024.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, from the Committee on Homeland  
Security, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 4406]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Homeland Security, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 4406) to require reporting regarding accreditation of basic training programs of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

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PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

H.R. 4406, the “DHS Basic Training Accreditation Improvement Act of 2023,” requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to report on the accreditation status of basic training programs of the De-

partment of Homeland Security (DHS) until all such programs achieve accreditation.

#### BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

Every year, DHS onboards thousands of new law enforcement officers within components such as U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and the Transportation Security Administration. All new hires must successfully complete law enforcement basic training programs. Basic training programs include the ICE Enforcement and Removal Operations Academy in Glynco, Georgia; the Secret Service's Basic Training Academy at the James J. Rowley Training Center in Beltsville, Maryland; and the U.S. Border Patrol Academy in Artesia, New Mexico.

During a hearing held on May 16, 2019, the Subcommittee on Oversight, Management, and Accountability heard testimony about the importance of accrediting basic training programs. According to the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers (FLETC) Director, Thomas J. Walters, accreditation "assigns rigor to . . . training processes" and "results in the best product." Unfortunately, several DHS law enforcement basic training programs are not accredited, including the U.S. Border Patrol Academy, CBP's Field Operations Academy Officer Basic Training Program, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' Officer Basic Training Program. In some cases, programs have been unaccredited for several years. For example, the Border Patrol Academy submitted an initial application in 2006 but did not pursue accreditation further.

The individuals joining the ranks of DHS' frontline components should receive the highest caliber training before they begin their careers as law enforcement officers. Achieving and maintaining accredited programs is essential to ensuring that such training is provided.

#### HEARINGS

The Committee held the following hearing in the 116th Congress that informed H.R. 4406:

On May 16, 2019, the Subcommittee on Oversight, Management, and Accountability held a hearing entitled, "Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers: Preparing America's Law Enforcement to Protect the Homeland." The Subcommittee received testimony from Thomas J. Walters, Director, FLETC, DHS; John Kelly, Acting Inspector General, Office of Inspector General, DHS; and Greg Davis, Captain, DPS Academy Training Coordinator, Texas Department of Public Safety.

#### COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

The Committee met on September 25, 2024, a quorum being present, to consider H.R. 4406 and ordered the measure to be favorably reported to the House by voice vote.

#### COMMITTEE VOTES

Clause 3(b) of rule XIII requires the Committee to list the recorded votes on the motion to report legislation and amendments thereto.

No recorded votes were requested during consideration of H.R. 4406.

#### COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS

In compliance with clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII, the Committee advises that the findings and recommendations of the Committee, based on oversight activities under clause 2(b)(1) of rule X, are incorporated in the descriptive portions of this report.

#### CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ESTIMATE, NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY, ENTITLEMENT AUTHORITY, AND TAX EXPENDITURES

With respect to the requirements of clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, and with respect to the requirements of clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII and section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee adopts as its own the estimate of any new budget authority, spending authority, credit authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or tax expenditures contained in the cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office.

The Congressional Budget Act of 1974 requires the Congressional Budget Office, to the extent practicable, to prepare estimates of the budgetary effects of legislation ordered reported by Congressional authorizing committees. In order to provide the Congress with as much information as possible, the attached table summarizes information about the estimated direct spending and revenue effects of some of the legislation that has been ordered reported by the House Committee on Homeland Security during the 118th Congress. The legislation listed in this table generally would have small effects, if any, on direct spending or revenues, CBO estimates. Where possible, the table also provides information about the legislation's estimated effects on spending subject to appropriation and on intergovernmental and private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

**ESTIMATED BUDGETARY EFFECTS AND MANDATES INFORMATION**

Bill number	Title	Status	Last action	Budget function	Direct spending, 2025-2034	Revenues, 2025-2034	Spending subject to appropriation, 2025-2029	Pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	Budgetary effects after 2034	Mandates	Contact
H.R. 3169	Identifying Adversarial Threats at our Ports Act.	Ordered reported .....	09/25/24	050	0	0	Not estimated	No	No	Yes	Aldo Proserpi
	<p>H.R. 3169 would require the Department of Homeland Security to determine whether cybersecurity vulnerabilities exist in the software or hardware of foreign cranes operating in U.S. ports and to remediate any such vulnerabilities. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 3169 would not affect direct spending or revenues. CBO has not estimated the bill's effects on spending subject to appropriation. The bill would impose intergovernmental and private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). Because the cost of the mandates would depend on regulations yet to be published, CBO cannot determine whether the cost of compliance would exceed the annual threshold for intergovernmental and private-sector mandates (\$100 million and \$200 million in 2024, respectively, adjusted annually for inflation).</p>										
H.R. 4406	DHS Basic Training Accreditation Improvement Act of 2023.	Ordered reported .....	09/25/24	750	0	0	Not estimated	No	No	No	Jeremy Crimm
	<p>H.R. 4406 would require the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to report to the Congress annually on whether its basic training programs are accredited by an independent organization. The bill also would require DHS to carry out research and development to enhance the preparedness of state, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies to respond to terrorist threats. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 4406 would not affect direct spending or revenues. CBO has not estimated the bill's effects on spending subject to appropriation. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.</p>										
H.R. 5729	A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds to establish a Homeland Intelligence Experts Group, and for other purposes.	Ordered reported .....	09/25/24	750	0	0	Not estimated	No	No	No	Jeremy Crimm
	<p>H.R. 5729 would prohibit the use of federal funds to reestablish the Homeland Intelligence Experts Group or any successor program. That group, whose members come from private-sector entities, advised the Department of Homeland Security on intelligence and counterintelligence activities. The group was disbanded on May 2, 2024. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 5729 would not affect direct spending or revenues. CBO has not estimated the bill's effects on spending subject to appropriation. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.</p>										
H.R. 8119	PEARL Act .....	Ordered reported .....	09/25/24	750	0	0	Not estimated	No	No	No	Jeremy Crimm
	<p>H.R. 8119 would require Customs and Border Protection to establish a pilot program to adopt dogs from local animal shelters and train them for its therapy dog program. Under the bill, the program would terminate three years after enactment. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 8119 would not affect direct spending or revenues. CBO has not estimated the bill's effects on spending subject to appropriation. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.</p>										
H.R. 9469	Pipeline Security Act .....	Ordered reported .....	09/25/24	400	0	0	Not estimated	No	No	Yes	Emma Uebelhor
	<p>H.R. 9469 would codify the Transportation Security Administration's responsibility to protect pipelines from terrorists and cybersecurity threats. The bill would require that agency to report to the Congress on implementing the bill and would direct the Government Accountability Office to review the implementation within two years of enactment. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 9469 would not affect direct spending or revenues. CBO has not estimated the bill's effects on spending subject to appropriation. The bill would impose a private-sector mandate as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA). Because the cost of the mandate would depend on regulations yet to be published, CBO cannot determine whether the cost would exceed the threshold established in UMRA for private-sector mandates (\$200 million in 2024, adjusted annually for inflation). The bill contains no intergovernmental mandates as defined in UMRA.</p>										
H.R. 9668	SHIELD Against CCP Act .....	Ordered reported .....	09/25/24	750	0	0	Not estimated	No	No	No	Jeremy Crimm

H.R. 9689	DHS Cybersecurity Internship Program Act	Ordered reported .....	09/25/24	050	0	0	Not estimated	No	No	No	No	Aldo Proserpi
H.R. 9731	Special Interest Alien Reporting Act of 2024.	Ordered reported .....	09/25/24	750	0	0	Not estimated	No	No	No	No	Jeremy Crimm
H.R. 9748	Research Security and Accountability in DHS Act.	Ordered reported .....	09/25/24	750	0	0	Not estimated	No	No	No	No	Jeremy Crimm
H.R. 9749	A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to abolish the reorganization authority of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.	Ordered reported .....	09/25/24	750	0	0	Not estimated	No	No	No	No	Jeremy Crimm
H.R. 9752	Tren de Aragua Southwest Border Security Threat Assessment Act.	Ordered reported .....	09/25/24	750	0	0	Not estimated	No	No	No	No	Jeremy Crimm
H.R. 9768	Joint Cyber Defense Collaborative Act .....	Ordered reported .....	09/25/24	050	0	0	Not estimated	No	No	No	No	Aldo Proserpi
H.R. 9769	Strengthening Cyber Resilience Against State-Sponsored Threats Act.	Ordered reported .....	09/25/24	050	0	0	Not estimated	No	No	No	No	Aldo Proserpi

H.R. 9668 would require the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to establish an interagency working group to assess the department's efforts to combat terrorist, cybersecurity, border, port, and transportation security threats posed by the government of China. The bill would require DHS to report to the Congress annually on the working group's activities and require the Government Accountability Office to report to the Congress on the bill's implementation. H.R. 9668 also would require DHS to enhance its situational awareness concerning threats posed by the government of China. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 9668 would not affect direct spending or revenues. CBO has not estimated the bill's effects on spending subject to appropriation. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

H.R. 9689 would require the Department of Homeland Security to establish a cybersecurity internship program. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 9689 would not affect direct spending or revenues. CBO has not estimated the bill's effects on spending subject to appropriation. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

H.R. 9731 would require the Department of Homeland Security to report to the Congress monthly on the number of aliens (non-U.S. nationals) it encounters who pose a national security risk. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 9731 would not affect direct spending or revenues. CBO has not estimated the bill's effects on spending subject to appropriation. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

H.R. 9748 would require the Department of Homeland Security to establish a cybersecurity research and development program to protect its research and development projects from unauthorized access or disclosure. The bill also would require the Government Accountability Office to report to the Congress within one year of enactment on DHS's compliance with governmentwide policies to protect research and development. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 9748 would not affect direct spending or revenues. CBO has not estimated the bill's effects on spending subject to appropriation. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

H.R. 9749 would prohibit the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) from establishing, consolidating, or discontinuing organizational units and reallocating functions within component units. Under current law, DHS is authorized to conduct those activities after providing notice to the Congress. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 9749 would not affect direct spending or revenues. CBO has not estimated the bill's effects on spending subject to appropriation. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

H.R. 9752 would require the Department of Homeland Security to report to the Congress on countering threats on the southwestern U.S. border posed by the Tren de Aragua organization. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 9752 would not affect direct spending or revenues. CBO has not estimated the bill's effects on spending subject to appropriation. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

H.R. 9768 would codify the activities of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency related to analyzing and sharing cybersecurity threat information with federal, state, and private-sector entities. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 9768 would not affect direct spending or revenues. CBO has not estimated the bill's effects on spending subject to appropriation. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

H.R. 9769 would require the Department of Homeland Security to report to the Congress on countering threats on the southwestern U.S. border posed by the Tren de Aragua organization. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 9769 would not affect direct spending or revenues. CBO has not estimated the bill's effects on spending subject to appropriation. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

ESTIMATED BUDGETARY EFFECTS AND MANDATES INFORMATION—Continued

Bill number	Title	Status	Last action	Budget function	Direct spending, 2025–2034	Revenues, 2025–2034	Spending subject to appropriation, 2025–2029	Pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	Budgetary effects after 2034	Mandates	Contact
H.R. 9769	H.R. 9769 would establish an interagency task force to detect, analyze, and respond to state-sponsored cybersecurity threats. The bill also would require the task force to report annually to the Congress on the findings and actions of the task force. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 9769 would not affect direct spending or revenues. CBO has not estimated the bill's effects on spending subject to appropriation. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.										
H.R. 9770	Cyber PIVOTT Act .....	Ordered reported	09/25/24	050	0	0	Not estimated	No	No	No	Aldo Proserpi
	H.R. 9770 would require the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to establish scholarships and training opportunities for students enrolled in cybersecurity associate's degree or certification programs. The bill also would require students who participate in the scholarship program to serve for two years in a federal, state, or local government position. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 9770 would not affect direct spending or revenues. CBO has not estimated the bill's effects on spending subject to appropriation. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.										

## FEDERAL MANDATES STATEMENT

The Committee adopts as its own the estimate of Federal mandates prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 423 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995.

## DUPLICATIVE FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Pursuant to clause 3(c) of rule XIII, the Committee finds that H.R. 4406 does not contain any provision that establishes or reauthorizes a program known to be duplicative of another Federal program.

## STATEMENT OF GENERAL PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the objective of H.R. 4406 is to enhance the quality of training DHS offers to new law enforcement officers by requiring the Secretary of Homeland Security to report to Congress on the accreditation status of each of the Department's basic training programs until all such programs achieve accreditation and to afford better access to FLETC training opportunities for State, local, Tribal, and Territorial law enforcement officers.

## CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, AND LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

In compliance with rule XXI, this bill, as reported, contains no congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of rule XXI.

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE STATEMENT

No advisory committees within the meaning of section 5(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act were created by this legislation.

## APPLICABILITY TO THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that H.R. 4406 does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act.

## SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS OF THE LEGISLATION

*Section 1. Short title*

This section states that the Act may be cited as the "DHS Basic Training Accreditation Improvement Act of 2023."

*Section 2. Reporting on basic training programs of the Department of Homeland Security*

This section directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to report to Congress on the accreditation status for each basic training program within DHS no later than 90 days after the enactment of this Act. The Secretary is to include the following:

The date on which each program achieved initial accreditation. In the case of a program that is not accredited, the reasons for not obtaining or maintaining accreditation, including

the actions taken to achieve accreditation and a timeline for each accreditation program.

The date the program most recently received accreditation or reaccreditation.

Each program's anticipated accreditation or next reaccreditation date.

The name of the accreditation manager for each program.

This section also requires the heads of DHS components to notify the Secretary if a basic training program loses accreditation. The Secretary is to then notify Congress of the lapse, reason for the lapse, and activities underway to regain accreditation.

Lastly, this section defines the terms, "accreditation," "accreditation manager," "basic training program," "reaccreditation," and "relevant congressional committees."

### *Section 3. Research and development*

This section directs the Under Secretary for Science and Technology of DHS to conduct research and development of systems and technologies to enhance access to training offered by FLETC to State, local, Tribal, and Territorial law enforcement, with particular attention to law enforcement in rural and remote communities.