

109TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4284

To direct the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security to conduct reviews of certain contract actions by the Department of Homeland Security for the new Secure Border Initiative.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 9, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama (for himself, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. McCAUL of Texas, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. SIMMONS, and Mr. SHAYS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

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## A BILL

To direct the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security to conduct reviews of certain contract actions by the Department of Homeland Security for the new Secure Border Initiative.

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 “Secure Border Initia-  
5       tive Accountability Act of 2005”.

### 6   **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress finds the following:

1           (1) An urgent need exists for the installation of  
2           additional surveillance equipment, including cameras  
3           and ground sensors, to secure the Nation's borders.

4           (2) In 1998, the legacy Immigration and Natu-  
5           ralization Service initiated the Integrated Surveil-  
6           lance Intelligence System, which included the instal-  
7           lation of cameras and ground sensors to monitor  
8           targeted expanses of the Nation's borders.

9           (3) In 1999, the Immigration and Naturaliza-  
10          tion Service awarded a \$2,000,000 contract for the  
11          Integrated Surveillance Intelligence System, which  
12          expanded to \$200,000,000 the following year.

13          (4) In December 2004, the General Services  
14          Administration Office of Inspector General released  
15          an audit of part of the Integrated Surveillance Intel-  
16          ligence System, which revealed a disturbing lack of  
17          management control over the project's procurement  
18          and contracting practices. The audit found that ex-  
19          tensive funds were paid for work that was poor, in-  
20          complete, or never delivered to the Federal Govern-  
21          ment.

22          (5) The Subcommittee on Management, Inte-  
23          gration, and Oversight of the Committee on Home-  
24          land Security of the House of Representatives held  
25          a hearing on June 16, 2005, regarding the mis-

1 management of the Integrated Surveillance Intel-  
2 ligence System. Disturbing testimony was received  
3 regarding numerous improper task orders and con-  
4 tract awards, involving millions of dollars, that failed  
5 to comply with procurement laws and regulations.

6 (6) The Secretary of Homeland Security an-  
7 nounced on November 2, 2005, the comprehensive  
8 Secure Border Initiative, which will significantly ex-  
9 pand the number of cameras and other surveillance  
10 equipment that must be effectively integrated with  
11 existing technologies that currently are deployed  
12 along the Nation's borders.

13 (7) It is essential that the new Secure Border  
14 Initiative include rigorous financial and management  
15 controls, to ensure the efficiency and cost-effective-  
16 ness of this new program that will detect illegal  
17 aliens, drug smugglers, and terrorists who cross the  
18 Nation's borders illegally, and not repeat the mis-  
19 takes exhibited in the Integrated Surveillance Intel-  
20 ligence System.

21 **SEC. 3. INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEWS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Inspector General of the De-  
23 partment of Homeland Security shall review each contract  
24 action related to the Department's Secure Border Initia-  
25 tive having a value greater than \$20,000,000, to deter-

1 mine whether such action fully complies with applicable  
2 cost requirements, performance objectives, program mile-  
3 stones, and timelines.

4 (b) SCHEDULE FOR REVIEWS.—The Inspector Gen-  
5 eral shall complete a review under section (a) with respect  
6 to a contract action—

7 (1) within 60 days after the date of the initi-  
8 ation of the action; and

9 (2) upon the conclusion of performance of the  
10 contract.

11 (c) REPORT BY INSPECTOR GENERAL.—Upon com-  
12 pletion of each review required under subsection (a), the  
13 Inspector General shall submit to the Secretary of Home-  
14 land Security a report containing the findings of the re-  
15 view, including findings regarding any cost overruns, sig-  
16 nificant delays in contract execution, lack of rigorous de-  
17 partmental contract management, insufficient depart-  
18 mental financial oversight, or other indicators of a high  
19 risk contract.

20 (d) REPORT BY SECRETARY.—The Secretary of  
21 Homeland Security shall report to the Committee on  
22 Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and  
23 the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental  
24 Affairs of the Senate within 30 days after receipt of each  
25 report required under subsection (c) on the findings of the

- 1 report and the steps the Secretary has taken, or plans to
- 2 take, to address the problems found in the review that is
- 3 the subject of the report under subsection (c).

