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112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5941

To obtain an unqualified audit opinion, and improve financial accountability and management at the Department of Homeland Security.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 8, 2012

Mr. PLATTS (for himself, Mr. TOWNS, and Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 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 obtain an unqualified audit opinion, and improve financial accountability and management at the Department of Homeland Security.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "DHS Audit Requirement Target Act of 2012" or the "DART Act".

SEC. 2. IMPROVING FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND MANAGEMENT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term ''Department'' means the Department of Homeland Security;

(2) the term ''financial management systems'' has the meaning given that term under section 806 of the Federal Financial Management Improvement Act of 1996 (31 U.S.C. 3512 note);

(3) the term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Homeland Security; and

(4) the term ''unqualified opinion'' means an unqualified opinion within the meaning given that term under generally accepted auditing standards.

(b) REACHING AN UNQUALIFIED AUDIT OPINION.—In order to ensure compliance with the Department of Homeland Security Financial Accountability Act (Public Law 108–330; 118 Stat. 1275) and the amendments made by that Act, the Secretary shall take the necessary steps to ensure that the full set of consolidated financial statements of the Department for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and each fiscal year thereafter, are ready in a timely manner and in preparation for an audit as part of preparing the performance and accountability reports required under section 3516(f) of title 31, United States Code, (including submitting the reports not later than November 15, 2013, and each year thereafter) in order to obtain an unqualified opinion on the full set of financial statements for the fiscal year.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS ON PROGRESS OF MEETING AUDIT REQUIREMENTS.—In order to ensure progress in implementing the Department of Homeland Security Financial Accountability Act (Public Law 108–330; 118 Stat. 1275), and the amendments made by that Act, during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the date on which an unqualified opinion described in subsection (b) is submitted, each report submitted by the Chief Financial Officer of the Department under section 902(a)(6) of title 31, United States Code, shall include a plan—

(1) to obtain an unqualified opinion on the full set of financial statements, which shall discuss plans and resources needed to meet the deadlines under subsection (b);

(2) that addresses how the Department will eliminate material weaknesses and significant deficiencies in internal controls over financial reporting and provides deadlines for the elimination of such weaknesses and deficiencies; and

(3) to modernize the financial management systems of the Department, including timelines, goals, alternatives, and costs of the plan, which shall in-

clude consideration of alternative approaches, including modernizing the existing financial management systems and associated financial controls of the Department and establishing new financial management systems and associated financial controls.

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