

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2390

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 24, 2015

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs

AN ACT

To require a review of university-based centers for homeland
security, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Homeland Security
3 University-Based Centers Review Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. REVIEW OF UNIVERSITY-BASED CENTERS.**

5 (a) GAO STUDY OF UNIVERSITY-BASED CENTERS.—

6 Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of
7 this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States
8 shall initiate a study to assess the university-based centers
9 for homeland security program authorized by section
10 308(b)(2) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6
11 U.S.C. 188(b)(2)), and provide recommendations to the
12 Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on
13 Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Rep-
14 resentatives and the Committee on Homeland Security
15 and Governmental Affairs of the Senate for appropriate
16 improvements.

17 (b) SUBJECT MATTERS.—The study under sub-
18 section (a) shall include the following:

19 (1) A review of the Department of Homeland
20 Security’s efforts to identify key areas of study need-
21 ed to support the homeland security mission, and
22 criteria that the Department utilized to determine
23 those key areas for which the Department should
24 maintain, establish, or eliminate university-based
25 centers.

1 (2) A review of the method by which university-
2 based centers, federally funded research and develop-
3 ment centers, and Department of Energy national
4 laboratories receive tasking from the Department of
5 Homeland Security, including a review of how uni-
6 versity-based research is identified, prioritized, and
7 funded.

8 (3) A review of selection criteria for designating
9 university-based centers and a weighting of such cri-
10 teria.

11 (4) An examination of best practices from other
12 agencies' efforts to organize and use university-
13 based research to support their missions.

14 (5) A review of the Department of Homeland
15 Security's criteria and metrics to measure demon-
16 strable progress achieved by university-based centers
17 in fulfilling Department taskings, and mechanisms
18 for delivering and disseminating the research results
19 of designated university-based centers within the De-
20 partment and to other Federal, State, and local
21 agencies.

22 (6) An examination of the means by which aca-
23 demic institutions that are not designated or associ-
24 ated with the designated university-based centers
25 can optimally contribute to the research mission of

1 the Directorate of Science and Technology of the
2 Department of Homeland Security.

3 (7) An assessment of the interrelationship be-
4 tween the different university-based centers and the
5 degree to which outreach and collaboration among a
6 diverse array of academic institutions is encouraged
7 by the Department of Homeland Security, particu-
8 larly with historically Black colleges and universities
9 and minority-serving institutions.

10 (8) A review of any other essential elements of
11 the programs determined in the conduct of the
12 study.

13 (c) INFORMATION RELATING TO UNIVERSITY-BASED
14 CENTERS.—Subparagraph (D) of section 308(b)(2) of the
15 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 188(b)(2)) is
16 amended to read as follows:

17 “(D) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—
18 Not later than 1 year after the date of the en-
19 actment of this subparagraph and annually
20 thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Con-
21 gress a report on the implementation of this
22 section. Each such report shall—

23 “(i) indicate which center or centers
24 have been designated pursuant to this sec-
25 tion;

1 “(ii) describe how such designation or
2 designations enhance homeland security;

3 “(iii) provide information on any deci-
4 sions to revoke or modify such designation
5 or designations;

6 “(iv) describe research that has been
7 tasked and completed by each center that
8 has been designated during the preceding
9 year;

10 “(v) describe funding provided by the
11 Secretary for each center under clause (iv)
12 for that year; and

13 “(vi) describe plans for utilization of
14 each center or centers in the forthcoming
15 year.”.

Passed the House of Representatives June 23, 2015.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,

Clerk.