

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4737

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 11, 2020

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

AN ACT

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security to research and evaluate existing Federal research regarding approaches to mitigate climate change on homeland security to identify areas for further research within the Department, research and develop approaches to mitigate the consequences of climate change on 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Department of Home-
5 land Security Climate Change Research Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. CLIMATE CHANGE PLANNING, RESEARCH AND DE-**
7 **VELOPMENT, AND PROTECTION AND PRE-**
8 **PAREDNESS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Homeland Secu-
10 rity Act of 2002 is amended by adding at the end the fol-
11 lowing new section:

12 **“SEC. 321. CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH AND DEVELOP-**
13 **MENT.**

14 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary for Science
15 and Technology—

16 “(1) shall evaluate existing Federal research re-
17 garding approaches to mitigate the consequence of
18 climate change on homeland security to identify
19 areas for additional research and development pur-
20 suant to paragraph (2) with respect to—

21 “(A) any connection between climate
22 change and homeland security, including how
23 the resulting competition for resources, eco-
24 nomic distress, and social discontent has con-

1 tributed to, among other outcomes, acts of ter-
2 rorism;

3 “(B) the degree to which climate change is
4 reflected in terrorism preparedness and emer-
5 gency planning and policies, including with re-
6 spect to preparedness, response to, and recovery
7 from natural disasters; and

8 “(C) the degree to which the Federal fund-
9 ing structure to respond to major disaster dec-
10 larations and emergency declarations is ade-
11 quately structured to meet the demands of re-
12 sponding to and recovering from acts of ter-
13 rorism and natural disasters that are aggra-
14 vated by climate change; and

15 “(2) shall, to the extent practicable, conduct re-
16 search and development on approaches to mitigate
17 the consequences of climate change on homeland se-
18 curity in response to finding pursuant to paragraph
19 (1).

20 “(b) SCOPE.—The scope of the research and develop-
21 ment under subsection (a)(2) shall include the following:

22 “(1) Any connection between climate change
23 and homeland security, including how the resulting
24 competition for resources, economic distress, and so-

1 cial discontent can contribute to, among other out-
2 comes, acts of terrorism.

3 “(2) The degree to which climate change is re-
4 flected in terrorism preparedness and emergency
5 planning and policies, including with respect to pre-
6 paredness, response to, and recovery from natural
7 disasters.

8 “(3) The degree to which the Federal funding
9 structure to respond to major disaster declarations
10 and emergency declarations is adequately structured
11 to meet the demands of responding to and recov-
12 ering from acts of terrorism and natural disasters
13 that are aggravated by climate change.

14 “(c) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this section,
15 the Under Secretary for Science and Technology shall con-
16 sult with the heads of other relevant agencies and depart-
17 ments of the Federal Government, first responders, and
18 relevant owners and operators of critical infrastructure.

19 “(d) CLIMATE CHANGE DEFINED.—The term ‘cli-
20 mate change’ refers to detectable changes in one or more
21 climate system components that is directly or indirectly
22 attributed to—

23 “(1) human activity; and

24 “(2) altering the composition of the global at-
25 mosphere.”.

1 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
2 in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is
3 amended by inserting after the item relating to section
4 320 the following new item:

“Sec. 321. Climate change research and development.”.

5 **SEC. 3. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

6 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment
7 of this Act and annually thereafter for 3 years, the Under
8 Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department
9 of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on
10 Homeland Security and the Committee on Science, Space,
11 and Technology of the House of Representatives and the
12 Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Af-
13 fairs of the Senate a report on any research and develop-
14 ment activities carried out pursuant to section 321 of the
15 Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by this Act.

Passed the House of Representatives February 10,
2020.

Attest:

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,

Clerk.

By ROBERT F. REEVES,

Deputy Clerk.