

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8045

To require the Department of Homeland Security to develop a threat assessment on the potential homeland security vulnerabilities associated with genome modification and editing, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 14, 2020

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. TRONE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To require the Department of Homeland Security to develop a threat assessment on the potential homeland security vulnerabilities associated with genome modification and editing, 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 “Genome Editing  
5 Threat Assessment Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. GENOME EDITING THREAT ASSESSMENT.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the  
8 date of the enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary

1 for the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office  
2 of the Department of Homeland Security, in coordination  
3 with the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis of  
4 the Department, the Under Secretary for the Science and  
5 Technology Directorate of the Department, and other  
6 Federal partners, as appropriate, shall develop a threat  
7 assessment on the potential homeland security  
8 vulnerabilities associated with genome modification and  
9 editing. Such threat assessment shall include information  
10 relating to the following:

- 11 (1) The dual-use of emerging biotechnology.
- 12 (2) The ability of gene editing to maliciously  
13 proliferate infectious diseases and pandemics on  
14 human, animal, and plant populations.
- 15 (3) The cybersecurity vulnerabilities in com-  
16 puter systems analyzing genomic data.
- 17 (4) Privacy concerns associated with analyzing  
18 genomic data.

19 (b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Upon completion of the  
20 threat assessment required under subsection (a), the Sec-  
21 retary of Homeland Security shall make a determination  
22 if any changes to future operations of the Department of  
23 Homeland Security are required to address security  
24 vulnerabilities identified in such assessment.

1       (c) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the com-  
2   pletion of the threat assessment required under subsection  
3   (a), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall, consistent  
4   with the protection of classified information, report to the  
5   Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Rep-  
6   resentatives and the Committee on Homeland Security  
7   and Governmental Affairs of the Senate on the findings  
8   of such threat assessment, any identified recommenda-  
9   tions, plans for incorporating such recommendations into  
10   future operations of the Department of Homeland Secu-  
11   rity, and any proposed legislative changes informed by  
12   such threat assessment.

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