

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 183

To provide appropriate information to Federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies, pursuant to investigating terrorism, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 2, 2021

Mr. RUBIO introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To provide appropriate information to Federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies, pursuant to investigating terrorism, 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 “Terror Intelligence Im-
5 provement Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) On June 12, 2016, the deadliest terrorist
9 attack on our homeland since September 11, 2001,

1 occurred at the Pulse Bar and Club in downtown
2 Orlando, Florida. The Orlando Police Department
3 shortly after the incident reported 49 fatalities and
4 53 injured.

5 (2) On June 13, 2016, the Washington Post re-
6 ported that the Federal Bureau of Investigation in-
7 vestigated the Orlando shooter for 10 months begin-
8 ning in 2013, putting him under surveillance, re-
9 cording his calls, and using confidential informants
10 to gauge whether he had been radicalized after he
11 talked at work about his connections with al-Qaeda
12 and dying as a martyr.

13 (3) On June 13, 2016, the Federal Bureau of
14 Investigation remarked that the suspect had made
15 clear his affinity, at the time of the attack, for the
16 Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (commonly known as
17 “ISIS”), and generally, leading up to the attack, for
18 radical Islamist groups.

19 (4) On June 12, 2016, the Bureau of Alcohol,
20 Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives announced it had
21 completed a trace of the firearms used in the shoot-
22 ing and determined both were purchased legally.

23 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

24 In this Act:

1 (1) CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term
2 “critical infrastructure” has the meaning given the
3 term in section 1016(e) of the Uniting and
4 Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate
5 Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism
6 Act of 2001 (also known as the “USA PATRIOT
7 Act”) (42 U.S.C. 5195c(e)).

8 (2) EXPLOSIVE.—The term “explosive” has the
9 meaning given the term “explosives” in section
10 841(d) of title 18, United States Code.

11 (3) FEDERAL DEPARTMENT OR AGENCY.—The
12 term “Federal department or agency” means—

13 (A) an Executive agency, as defined in sec-
14 tion 105 of title 5, United States Code; and

15 (B) the United States Postal Service.

16 (4) FIREARM.—The term “firearm” has the
17 meaning given the term in section 921 of title 18,
18 United States Code.

19 (5) JTTF.—The term “JTTF” means the
20 Joint Terrorism Task Forces established by the
21 Federal Bureau of Investigation.

22 (6) KEY RESOURCES.—The term “key re-
23 sources” has the meaning given the term in section
24 2 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C.
25 101).

1 the effects of deliberate efforts to destroy, inca-
2 pacitate, or exploit such infrastructure and re-
3 sources.

4 (b) NOTIFICATION OF TERRORISM INVESTIGATION
5 INFORMATION TO APPROPRIATE LAW ENFORCEMENT EN-
6 TITIES.—The Attorney General shall ensure that the na-
7 tional instant criminal background check system estab-
8 lished under section 103 of the Brady Handgun Violence
9 Prevention Act (34 U.S.C. 40901) immediately notifies
10 the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and
11 the JTTF of any request to transfer a firearm or explosive
12 to a person who is, or within the previous 10 years was,
13 the subject of a terrorism investigation by any Federal de-
14 partment or agency.

15 (c) AUDIT.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not earlier than 180 days,
17 and not later than 1 year, after the date of enact-
18 ment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Intel-
19 ligence Community shall initiate an audit of all of
20 the terrorism-related screening and watch list proce-
21 dures of the Federal Government in order to identify
22 any problems or inefficiencies in the nomination and
23 redress procedures pertaining to the maintenance of
24 terrorism watch list records.

1 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the
2 date of enactment of this Act, the Inspector General
3 of the Intelligence Community shall submit a report
4 to the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Sen-
5 ate and the Permanent Select Committee on Intel-
6 ligence of the House of Representatives on the find-
7 ings of the audit conducted under paragraph (1),
8 which shall include recommendations, if any, for im-
9 proving the nomination or redress procedures de-
10 scribed in paragraph (1).

11 (3) FORM OF REPORT.—The report required to
12 be submitted under paragraph (2) shall be submitted
13 in unclassified form, but may include a classified
14 annex.

15 **SEC. 5. ATTORNEY GENERAL AUTHORITY TO DELAY FIRE-**
16 **ARMS TRANSFER TO SUSPECTED TERROR-**
17 **ISTS.**

18 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROCESS.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
20 the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney Gen-
21 eral shall establish a process under which, for any
22 person who is, or during the preceding 10-year pe-
23 riod was, the subject of a terrorism investigation by
24 any Federal department or agency, the Attorney
25 General may—

1 (A) delay the transfer of a firearm or ex-
2 plosive to the person for a period not to exceed
3 10 business days; and

4 (B) file an emergency petition in a court of
5 competent jurisdiction to prevent the transfer of
6 the firearm or explosive.

7 (2) HEARING.—

8 (A) PRIORITY; APPLICABLE LAWS.—An
9 emergency petition filed under paragraph
10 (1)(B) and the subsequent hearing shall—

11 (i) receive the highest possible priority
12 on the docket of the court of competent ju-
13 risdiction; and

14 (ii) be subject to the Classified Infor-
15 mation Procedures Act (18 U.S.C. App.).

16 (B) NOTICE; COUNSEL.—A court shall en-
17 sure that a person for whom an emergency peti-
18 tion is filed under paragraph (1)(B)—

19 (i) receives actual notice of the hear-
20 ing; and

21 (ii) is provided with an opportunity to
22 participate with counsel in the hearing.

23 (C) GRANT OF PETITION.—A court shall
24 grant an emergency petition filed for a person
25 under paragraph (1)(B) if the court finds that

1 there is probable cause to believe that the per-
2 son is engaged, or has been engaged, in conduct
3 constituting, in preparation of, in aid of, or re-
4 lating to terrorism, or providing material sup-
5 port or resources therefor.

6 (D) COSTS AND FEES.—If an emergency
7 petition filed under paragraph (1)(B) is denied,
8 the Government shall be responsible for all rea-
9 sonable costs and attorney’s fees.

10 (3) ARREST AUTHORITY.—The Attorney Gen-
11 eral may arrest and detain a person for whom an
12 emergency petition has been filed under paragraph
13 (1)(B) where probable cause exists to believe that
14 the person is engaged, or has been engaged, in con-
15 duct constituting, in preparation of, in aid of, or re-
16 lating to terrorism, or providing material support or
17 resources therefor.

18 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date
19 of enactment of this Act, and quarterly thereafter, the At-
20 torney General shall submit to the Committee on the Judi-
21 ciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary
22 of the House of Representatives a report providing, for
23 the reporting period—

24 (1) the number of emergency petitions filed
25 under subsection (a);

1 (2) the number of individuals to whom the
2 transfer of a firearm or explosive was prevented
3 under an order granting an emergency petition filed
4 under subsection (a); and

5 (3) the number of instances in which a court
6 denied an emergency petition filed under subsection
7 (a).

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