

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 7435

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish an Intelligence Transparency and Oversight Program Office and Intelligence Ombuds within the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 9, 2026

Mr. MAGAZINER (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

A BILL

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish an Intelligence Transparency and Oversight Program Office and Intelligence Ombuds within the Department of 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 “DHS Intelligence
5 Transparency and Oversight Program Office and Ombuds
6 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TRANSPARENCY AND**
2 **OVERSIGHT PROGRAM OFFICE AND INTEL-**
3 **LIGENCE OMBUDS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title VII of the Homeland Secu-
5 rity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 341 et seq.) is amended by
6 adding at the end the following new section:

7 **“SEC. 714. INTELLIGENCE TRANSPARENCY AND OVERSIGHT**
8 **PROGRAM OFFICE; OMBUDS.**

9 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall estab-
11 lish within the Department an Intelligence Trans-
12 parency and Oversight Program Office (in this sec-
13 tion referred to as the ‘Office’) to carry out the fol-
14 lowing:

15 “(A) Review and assess information con-
16 cerning intelligence activities of the Depart-
17 ment, including relating to the timeliness, objec-
18 tivity, and independence from political consider-
19 ations of such activities.

20 “(B) Facilitate departmental decisions re-
21 garding making information publicly available
22 in a manner that enhances public under-
23 standing of such activities.

24 “(2) OMBUDS.—The Office shall be headed by
25 an Ombuds, who shall—

26 “(A) be a senior, career employee;

1 “(B) not hold any other position within the
2 Department;

3 “(C) have a background in—

4 “(i) intelligence;

5 “(ii) civil rights enforcement; and

6 “(iii) addressing matters of intel-
7 ligence timeliness, objectivity, and
8 politicization;

9 “(D) report directly to the Under Sec-
10 retary for Intelligence and Analysis; and

11 “(E) report directly to Congress with re-
12 spect to any urgent concerns.

13 “(b) DUTIES OF THE OMBUDS.—The Ombuds shall
14 have the following duties:

15 “(1) Serve, in consultation with the Privacy Of-
16 ficer appointed under section 222 and the Officer for
17 Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, as the Department’s
18 principal advisor regarding the following:

19 “(A) Safeguarding objectivity in intel-
20 ligence activities of the Department.

21 “(B) Ensuring such activities are inde-
22 pendent from political considerations.

23 “(2) Remain current and well-informed of
24 issues affecting intelligence activities.

1 “(3) Promote awareness among intelligence
2 components of the Department of the requirement
3 that all intelligence activities of the Department
4 shall be—

5 “(A) conducted in a manner consistent
6 with the protection of privacy rights, civil
7 rights, and civil liberties; and

8 “(B) objective and independent from polit-
9 ical considerations.

10 “(4) Provide, without fear of retaliation, con-
11 fidential forums to hear and help resolve individual
12 and organizational concerns regarding intelligence
13 activities of the Department, including relating to
14 real or perceived occurrences of civil rights or civil
15 liberties abuses, or politicization of analysis, biased
16 reporting, or lack of objectivity in intelligence collec-
17 tion or analysis.

18 “(5) Initiate reviews and make recommenda-
19 tions to the heads of the intelligence components of
20 the Department, as appropriate, related to the mat-
21 ters described in paragraph (4).

22 “(6) Facilitate departmental decisions regard-
23 ing making information publicly available in a man-
24 ner that enhances public understanding of the intel-
25 ligence activities of the Department, while con-

1 continuing to protect information when disclosure of
2 such information would harm homeland security.

3 “(7) Ensure that the functions performed by
4 the Ombuds are complementary to existing functions
5 within the Department.

6 “(c) COORDINATION WITH INTELLIGENCE COMPO-
7 NENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The heads of the intel-
9 ligence components of the Department shall each es-
10 tablish procedures to provide formal responses to
11 recommendations submitted to such officials by the
12 Ombuds pursuant to subsection (b)(5) within 60
13 days of receiving such recommendations.

14 “(2) ACCESS TO INFORMATION.—The Secretary
15 shall establish procedures to provide the Ombuds ac-
16 cess to all departmental information necessary to
17 execute the responsibilities of the Ombuds under this
18 section. The Ombuds may submit to the Secretary a
19 request for such information, and not later than 60
20 days after receiving such a request, the Secretary
21 shall provide the Ombuds with such information.

22 “(d) ANNUAL REPORTS.—Not later than one year
23 after the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter,
24 the Ombuds shall submit to the Committee on Homeland
25 Security and the Permanent Select Committee on Intel-

1 lidence of the House of Representatives and the Com-
2 mittee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
3 and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate
4 a report on its activities, findings, and recommendations
5 of the Ombuds over the immediately preceding 12-month
6 period.

7 “(e) DEFINITION.—In this section the term ‘intel-
8 lidence activity’ means the collection, gathering, proc-
9 essing, analysis, production, or dissemination of informa-
10 tion, including homeland security information, terrorism
11 information, and weapons of mass destruction informa-
12 tion.”.

13 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
14 in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is
15 amended by inserting after the item relating to section
16 713 the following new item:

“Sec. 714. Intelligence transparency and oversight program office; Ombuds.”.

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