

months in order to make it possible for transit agencies to complete projects that may take longer than the time period allowed under current law.

This bipartisan bill was passed in the House last Congress, and I urge my colleagues to again support this measure.

It is very important that we give transit professionals the flexibility that they need to keep our transit systems safe and secure. H.R. 549 will allow transit security grant program grantees to use the funds designated for security-hardening projects more efficiently and within a more reasonable timeframe.

I urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I, once again, urge my colleagues to support H.R. 549.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 549.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FIRST RESPONDER ACCESS TO INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES ACT

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 687) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a process to review applications for certain grants to purchase equipment or systems that do not meet or exceed any applicable national voluntary consensus standards, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 687

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “First Responder Access to Innovative Technologies Act”.

SEC. 2. APPROVAL OF CERTAIN EQUIPMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2008 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 609) is amended—

(1) in subsection (f)—

(A) by striking “If an applicant” and inserting the following:

“(1) APPLICATION REQUIREMENT.—If an applicant”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

“(2) REVIEW PROCESS.—The Administrator shall implement a uniform process for reviewing applications that, in accordance with paragraph (1), contain explanations to use grants provided under section 2003 or 2004 to purchase equipment or systems that do not meet or exceed any applicable national voluntary consensus standards developed under section 647 of the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006.

“(3) FACTORS.—In carrying out the review process under paragraph (2), the Administrator shall consider the following:

“(A) Current or past use of proposed equipment or systems by Federal agencies or the Armed Forces.

“(B) The absence of a national voluntary consensus standard for such equipment or systems.

“(C) The existence of an international consensus standard for such equipment or systems, and whether such equipment or systems meets such standard.

“(D) The nature of the capability gap identified by the applicant and how such equipment or systems will address such gap.

“(E) The degree to which such equipment or systems will serve the needs of the applicant better than equipment or systems that meet or exceed existing consensus standards.

“(F) Any other factor determined appropriate by the Administrator.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(g) REVIEW PROCESS.—The Administrator shall implement a uniform process for reviewing applications to use grants provided under section 2003 or 2004 to purchase equipment or systems not included on the Authorized Equipment List maintained by the Administrator.”.

(b) INSPECTOR GENERAL REPORT.—Not later than three years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report assessing the implementation of the review process established under paragraph (2) of subsection (f) of section 2008 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (as added by subsection (a) of this section), including information on the following:

(1) The number of requests to purchase equipment or systems that do not meet or exceed any applicable consensus standard evaluated under such review process.

(2) The capability gaps identified by applicants and the number of such requests granted or denied.

(3) The processing time for the review of such requests.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, I rise today in support of H.R. 687. This legislation would establish a review process for grant applicants seeking to purchase equipment or systems that do not meet or exceed national voluntary consensus standards.

With threats consistently evolving, it is reassuring to see new technology

emerge which will promote the safety of our communities and first responders. However, emerging technology is frequently developed faster than voluntary consensus standards can be implemented.

Recipients of grants under FEMA's State Homeland Security Grant Program and the Urban Area Security Initiative must procure equipment that meets these standards. Unfortunately, if emerging technology or equipment does not have a voluntary consensus standard and a grant recipient would like to use those funds to purchase such technology, FEMA does not have a uniform process to consider applications for that equipment.

H.R. 687 requires FEMA to develop such a process for reviewing these requests. Previously, this bill was introduced in the 114th Congress by the subcommittee's ranking member, Mr. PAYNE, and subsequently received bipartisan support by my subcommittee and the Committee on Homeland Security as well as the House when it was passed under suspension of the rules in September of 2016.

I thank the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) for reintroducing this commonsense bill. I am proud to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 687 because it will ensure our first responders have the ability to purchase equipment and emerging technology needed to effectively adapt to the current threat landscape.

Earlier this month, the Committee on Homeland Security released the January Terror Threat Snapshot, which found that the United States remains a top target for terrorists. It is clear that the threat to our communities is not going away.

Congress has the responsibility to make America safer and stronger. We can do so by ensuring commonsense measures are in place to ensure first responders have the tools that they need to address these threats.

I urge all Members to join me in supporting H.R. 687.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 687, the First Responder Access to Innovative Technologies Act.

Mr. Speaker, in my time serving as ranking member of the Committee on Homeland Security's Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response, and Communications, I have come to learn a great deal about the very important, very challenging job of first responders. These brave men and women run toward danger with our safety as their number one priority.

Since the September 11 attacks, the private sector has redoubled its efforts to develop innovative technologies for first responders to use and to carry out their vital missions.

Yet, through our subcommittee's oversight, we have seen where, in some instances, industry standards have

failed to keep the pace with breakthroughs in technology. As a result, we have found that first responders cannot always access the most up-to-date equipment because they cannot use Homeland Security grant funds to purchase equipment and technology that does not meet or exceed voluntary industry standards.

H.R. 687 would require FEMA to develop a transparent process for reviewing requests to use grant funds to purchase technologies that do not meet or exceed voluntary industry standards and/or that are not on the authorized equipment list.

The bill has the support of the Security Industry Association and unanimously passed the House last September. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from the Security Industry Association.

SECURITY INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION,
Silver Spring, MD, January 27, 2017.

Hon. DAN DONOVAN,
Chairman, House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response and Communications, Washington, DC.

Hon. DONALD PAYNE,
Ranking Member, House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness, Response and Communications, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN DONOVAN AND RANKING MEMBER PAYNE: On behalf of the Security Industry Association (SIA), I would like to express our strong support for H.R. 687, the First Responder Access to Innovative Technologies Act, which would streamline the existing process for first responders utilizing homeland security grants to purchase innovative equipment. SIA is a non-profit international trade association representing nearly 700 global security and life safety solutions providers, and our members develop, manufacture and integrate equipment that is vital to carrying out a variety of homeland security missions.

Under current law, equipment purchased with homeland security grants must meet or exceed "national voluntary consensus standards," unless an explanation as to why an exception is necessary is provided to, reviewed and approved by the Department. For some products, including first responder equipment, technology innovations have outpaced the process of developing voluntary consensus standards, and no such standards may yet exist. Among other provisions, H.R. 687 directs FEMA to develop a more consistent and transparent process for reviewing these requests, which would expedite consideration and provide more certainty to stakeholders.

Like you, we believe that first responders must be able to choose the most appropriate and advanced equipment to meet urgent and changing needs as they work to protect the public. SIA and its members stand ready to serve as a resource to you as you continue work on this critical issue. Thank you for your leadership and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

DON ERICKSON,
CEO, Security Industry Association.

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Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, our first responders are on the front lines of emergency response. In recognition of their bravery and sacrifices they make every day, in and out, we must make sure that they have the access to the

most up-to-date technologies to help them do their jobs better and safer. To that end, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 687.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to support H.R. 687, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JODY B. HICE of Georgia). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 687.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CYBER PREPAREDNESS ACT OF 2017

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 584) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to enhance preparedness and response capabilities for cyber attacks, bolster the dissemination of homeland security information related to cyber threats, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 584

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Cyber Preparedness Act of 2017".

SEC. 2. INFORMATION SHARING.

Title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended—

(1) in section 210A (6 U.S.C. 124h)—

(A) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraph (10), by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: ", including, in coordination with the national cybersecurity and communications integration center under section 227, access to timely technical assistance, risk management support, and incident response capabilities with respect to cyber threat indicators, defensive measures, cybersecurity risks, and incidents (as such terms are defined in such section), which may include attribution, mitigation, and remediation, and the provision of information and recommendations on security and resilience, including implications of cybersecurity risks to equipment and technology related to the electoral process";

(ii) in paragraph (11), by striking "and" after the semicolon;

(iii) by redesignating paragraph (12) as paragraph (14); and

(iv) by inserting after paragraph (11) the following new paragraphs:

"(12) review information relating to cybersecurity risks that is gathered by State, local, and regional fusion centers, and incorporate such information, as appropriate, into the Department's own information relating to cybersecurity risks;

"(13) ensure the dissemination to State, local, and regional fusion centers of information relating to cybersecurity risks; and";

(B) in subsection (c)(2)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (C) through (G) as subparagraphs (D) through (H), respectively; and

(ii) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following new subparagraph:

"(C) The national cybersecurity and communications integration center under section 227.;"

(C) in subsection (d)—

(i) in paragraph (3), by striking "and" after the semicolon;

(ii) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(iii) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph:

"(4) assist, in coordination with the national cybersecurity and communications integration center under section 227, fusion centers in using information relating to cybersecurity risks to develop a comprehensive and accurate threat picture; and"; and

(D) in subsection (j)—

(i) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (5) as paragraphs (2) through (6), respectively; and

(ii) by inserting before paragraph (2), as so redesignated, the following new paragraph:

"(1) the term 'cybersecurity risk' has the meaning given that term in section 227.;"

and

(2) in section 227 (6 U.S.C. 148)—

(A) in subsection (c)—

(i) in paragraph (5)(B), by inserting ", including State and major urban area fusion centers, as appropriate" before the semicolon at the end;

(ii) in paragraph (7), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "information and recommendations" each place it appears and inserting "information, recommendations, and best practices"; and

(iii) in paragraph (9), by inserting "best practices," after "defensive measures,;" and

(B) in subsection (d)(1)(B)(ii), by inserting "and State and major urban area fusion centers, as appropriate" before the semicolon at the end.

SEC. 3. HOMELAND SECURITY GRANTS.

Subsection (a) of section 2008 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 609) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through (14) as paragraphs (5) through (15), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following new paragraph:

"(4) enhancing cybersecurity, including preparing for and responding to cybersecurity risks and incidents (as such terms are defined in section 227) and developing statewide cyber threat information analysis and dissemination activities;";

SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that to facilitate the timely dissemination to appropriate State, local, and private sector stakeholders of homeland security information related to cyber threats, the Secretary of Homeland Security should, to the greatest extent practicable, work to share actionable information related to cyber threats in an unclassified form.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to