

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, today, the Transportation Security Grant Program is a meaningful tool to help communities improve the safety of our surface infrastructure, but, as discussed, there are areas where it could be improved. H.R. 1313 seeks to do just that.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman KING for his bipartisan work on this legislation.

Before I yield back, I would like to note that this legislation is identical to a measure that the House approved last Congress by a voice vote on January 31, 2017.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1313, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1313, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SECURING DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY FIREARMS ACT OF 2019

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1437) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to achieve security of sensitive assets among the components of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1437

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 “Securing Department of Homeland Security Firearms Act of 2019” or the “Securing DHS Firearms Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department” means the Department of Homeland Security.

(2) LOST.—The term “lost” includes loss by theft.

(3) SENSITIVE ASSETS.—The term “sensitive assets” means any asset, regardless of value—

(A) that the Department of Homeland Security issues to a Department employee; and
(B) that either the Under Secretary for Management of the Department or a component head determines requires special control and accounting.

(4) UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT.—The term “Under Secretary for Management” means the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security.

SEC. 3. INCLUSION OF SECURING FIREARMS AND OTHER SENSITIVE ASSETS IN RESPONSIBILITIES OF UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT.

Section 701 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 341) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(6), by inserting “(including firearms and other sensitive assets)” after “equipment”;

(2) by redesignating the second subsection (e) (relating to the definition of interoperable communications) as subsection (f); and

(3) by amending such redesignated subsection (f) to read as follows:

“(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS.—The term ‘interoperable communications’ has the meaning given such term in section 7303(g) of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (6 U.S.C. 194(g)).

“(2) SENSITIVE ASSETS.—The term ‘sensitive assets’ means any asset, regardless of value—

“(A) that the Department issues to a Department employee; and

“(B) that either the Under Secretary for Management of the Department or a component head determines requires special control and accounting.”.

SEC. 4. MANAGEMENT DIRECTIVE.

(a) SAFEGUARDING FIREARMS AND SENSITIVE ASSETS DIRECTIVE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary for Management shall develop and disseminate a Department-wide directive for achieving adequate security over firearms and other sensitive assets across the Department.

(2) CONTENTS.—The directive required under subsection (a) shall, at a minimum, include the following:

(A) Descriptions of what equipment, in addition to firearms, is classified as a sensitive asset for the purpose of carrying out this Act.

(B) Requirements for securing Department-issued firearms and other sensitive assets.

(C) A classification system for all categories of Department-issued badges and corresponding requirements for safeguarding such assets.

(D) Reporting requirements for lost firearms and other sensitive assets, including timelines for such reporting, to supervisors, local law enforcement, the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Crime Information Center, and Department headquarters.

(E) Recordkeeping requirements for lost firearms and other sensitive assets in inventory systems, including a timeline for recording such losses.

(3) REVIEW AND UPDATE OF DIRECTIVE.—Not later than one year after the issuance of the directive required under subsection (a), the Under Secretary for Management shall review and update, as necessary, such directive, including adding a requirement relating to recording in the inventory systems maintained by each component of the Department the acceptance or transfer of a firearm or other sensitive asset by such component.

(b) PERSONAL PROPERTY ASSET MANAGEMENT PROGRAM MANUAL.—Together with the issuance of the directive pursuant to subsection (a), the Under Secretary for Management shall disseminate a revised version of the Personal Property Asset Management Program Manual that includes the following:

(1) Requirements for component heads to develop procedures to safeguard firearms and other sensitive assets during on and off-duty time.

(2) Requirements for the issuance of safety locking devices and policies on the use of such assets, as applicable.

(3) Requirements for initial, recurrent, and remedial training on safeguarding such assets.

(4) Examples, with detail, of how to report and record lost sensitive assets across components of the Department, and an enforcement mechanism to ensure supervisors maintain such records.

(5) A requirement that the file maintained on a lost firearm or other sensitive asset contains both the corresponding police report and the Department report detailing the circumstances surrounding such loss, including information on adherence to safeguarding procedures.

SEC. 5. COMPONENT RESPONSIBILITIES.

Department component heads shall—

(1) comply with Federal law, Federal regulations, executive branch guidance, and Department policy, including directives required by this Act, relating to the management and oversight of securing firearms and other sensitive assets;

(2) review the need for non-law enforcement badges;

(3) require component personnel to safeguard firearms and other sensitive assets in accordance with the directive issued by the Under Secretary for Management under section 4;

(4) require that component personnel adhere to the procedures and timelines for properly reporting to supervisors lost firearms and other sensitive assets;

(5) require that lost firearms and other sensitive assets are reported to local law enforcement, the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Crime Information Center, and Department headquarters in the timeframe established in such directive; and

(6) require that lost firearms and other sensitive assets are recorded in inventory systems in the timeframe established by such directive.

SEC. 6. INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW.

The Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall, on an ongoing basis, review implementation of this Act and, not later than 180 days after issuance of the directive under section 4, 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 review of the progress and effectiveness of such directive, including an assessment of the adequacy of such directive, as well as the level of compliance among the components of the Department to achieve adequate security of sensitive assets across Department components.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New Mexico?

There was no objection.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1437, the Securing DHS Firearms Act of 2019.

Mr. Speaker, this bill, authored by Mr. CORREA of California, would require the Department of Homeland Security to take action to safeguard sensitive assets, such as firearms, badges, and immigration stamps.

According to the DHS Office of Inspector General, during a 3-year period between fiscal years 2014 and 2016, the Department lost track of more than 2,000 highly sensitive assets. Failing to safeguard these assets puts the public at risk.

This legislation, if enacted, would require the DHS under secretary for management to issue a department-wide directive for securing firearms, immigration stamps, badges, and other sensitive assets with reporting requirements for any assets that are lost or stolen.

It is a commonsense measure the House passed by voice vote a little over 1 year ago.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage this Chamber to again support this legislation and help safeguard the Department's most sensitive assets.

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1437, the Securing DHS Firearms Act of 2019. This bill makes some much-needed improvements to address the security of firearms at the Department of Homeland Security.

A DHS Office of Inspector General report from October of 2017 found that the DHS and component personnel misplaced over 2,100 highly sensitive assets, including 228 firearms, and 1,889 badges between the fiscal years of 2014 and 2016.

The statistics from the OIG report and the lack of accountability for DHS personnel that fail to safeguard sensitive assets is startling. DHS performs a critical national security mission. It is unacceptable that DHS has deficiencies in the training personnel receive on how to properly safeguard and track sensitive assets like firearms.

H.R. 1437 follows the recommendations made by the OIG in its report and requires the under secretary of management at DHS to issue a directive to ensure the Department and its components adequately safeguard sensitive assets.

H.R. 1437 also mandates DHS to revise its Personal Property Asset Management Program Manual to require recurrent training and appropriate procedures to secure assets in accordance with the DHS directive.

The Securing DHS Firearms Act of 2019 puts into place important steps to ensure that DHS is appropriately safeguarding sensitive assets while conducting its critical mission. This much-needed bill is identical to legislation passed in the 115th Congress by a voice vote.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Representative CORREA for introducing this legis-

lation, and I urge all Members to join me in supporting this bill.

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

□ 1630

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA).

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Homeland Security has grown into the Nation's largest Federal law enforcement agency. More than 60,000 law enforcement officers within DHS are entrusted with securing our country as well as maintaining and safeguarding sensitive law enforcement equipment, such as firearms, ammunition, and badges.

In 2010, DHS' Office of Inspector General reported 289 firearms issued to DHS officers were lost between 2006 and 2008. By 2017, when the inspector general did a follow-up review, it found that 228 firearms, 1,900 badges, and 2,100 sensitive assets were either lost or stolen between 2014 and 2016.

Just last winter, ICE realized that it had more ammunition than it was tracking. CNN reported on 70 cases where Federal air marshals lost or misplaced their weapons, including leaving firearms in airport bathrooms.

Mr. Speaker, 4 years ago, a constituent from my home State of California, Antonio Ramos, 27 years old, was fatally shot with a 9-millimeter pistol stolen from a DHS officer. This is tragic and unacceptable, and we can do better.

The inspector general identified the absence of a Department-wide directive or policy of securing sensitive assets as a major reason for the Department's mismanagement of firearms and other equipment. Insufficient tracking and recording mechanisms and poor oversight were also factors identified.

This bill, Securing DHS Firearms Act, seeks to fix these issues by ensuring the Department has effective controls over firearms and other sensitive assets. Additionally, it requires DHS to develop reporting and record-keeping requirements for lost firearms and other assets that law enforcement personnel can adhere to.

Enactment of the Securing DHS Firearms Act of 2019 is necessary to ensure that the highly sensitive assets that help DHS officers protect our country don't fall into the wrong hands.

I first introduced this bill in the 115th Congress where it received bipartisan support and passed this House unanimously on January 9, 2018. I urge my colleagues to once again pass this commonsense legislation.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, a robust and standardized policy on safeguarding DHS assets and

other law enforcement equipment is not just an administrative matter. It is a matter of public safety and homeland security.

Additionally, clear requirements on the reporting of lost equipment are just as important. Official badges, immigration stamps, firearms, and other sensitive assets are issued by the Department to properly equip the front-line personnel of DHS who defend our homeland security every day. We must ensure that such equipment is well-protected and maintained and not accessible to bad actors.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 1437, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. TORRES SMALL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1437.

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.

DHS ACQUISITION DOCUMENTATION INTEGRITY ACT OF 2019

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1912) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for requirements relating to documentation for major acquisition programs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1912

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 "DHS Acquisition Documentation Integrity Act of 2019".

SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY ACQUISITION DOCUMENTATION.

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

"SEC. 711. ACQUISITION DOCUMENTATION.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—For each major acquisition program, the Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Management, shall require the head of a relevant component or office to—

"(1) maintain acquisition documentation that is complete, accurate, timely, and valid, and that includes, at a minimum—

"(A) operational requirements that are validated consistent with departmental policy and changes to such requirements, as appropriate;

"(B) a complete lifecycle cost estimate with supporting documentation;

"(C) verification of such lifecycle cost estimate against independent cost estimates, and reconciliation of any differences;

"(D) a cost-benefit analysis with supporting documentation; and

"(E) a schedule, including, as appropriate, an integrated master schedule;

"(2) prepare cost estimates and schedules for major acquisition programs, as required