

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

under subparagraphs (B) and (E), in a manner consistent with best practices as identified by the Comptroller General of the United States; and

“(3) submit certain acquisition documentation to the Secretary to produce for submission to Congress an annual comprehensive report on the status of departmental acquisitions.

“(b) WAIVER.—On a case-by-case basis with respect to any major acquisition program under this section, the Secretary may waive the requirement under paragraph (3) of subsection (a) for a fiscal year if either—

“(1) such program has not—

“(A) entered the full rate production phase in the acquisition lifecycle;

“(B) had a reasonable cost estimate established; and

“(C) had a system configuration defined fully; or

“(2) such program does not meet the definition of capital asset, as such term is defined by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

“(c) CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT.—At the same time the President's budget is submitted for a fiscal year under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary shall make information available, as applicable, to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate regarding the requirement described in subsection (a) in the prior fiscal year that includes the following specific information regarding each major acquisition program for which the Secretary has issued a waiver under subsection (b):

“(1) The grounds for granting a waiver for such program.

“(2) The projected cost of such program.

“(3) The proportion of a component's or office's annual acquisition budget attributed to such program, as available.

“(4) Information on the significance of such program with respect to the component's or office's operations and execution of its mission.

“(d) MAJOR ACQUISITION PROGRAM DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘major acquisition program’ means a Department acquisition program that is estimated by the Secretary to require an eventual total expenditure of at least \$300,000,000 (based on fiscal year 2019 constant dollars) over its lifecycle cost.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is amended by adding after the item related to section 707 the following new item:

“Sec. 711. Acquisition documentation.”.

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 matter.

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. 1912, a measure I introduced with the support of Congressman DAN CRENSHAW to ensure the Department of Homeland Security effectively manages its largest acquisitions, those with an estimated lifecycle cost of \$300 million or more.

Each year, DHS invests billions of dollars in its acquisition programs to help execute its many critical missions. However, since the Department was created, DHS has struggled to keep some of its largest programs on schedule and on budget.

For example, the Department's attempts to modernize and integrate its various financial management systems has been in the works for 15 years with little to show for its multimillion expenditures.

A plan to deliver a DHS-wide human resources IT system has faced similar delays, as has a decade-long attempt to consolidate the Department's headquarters at the St. Elizabeths campus in southeast Washington, D.C.

The Department's acquisition management challenges have been on the Government Accountability Office's high-risk list since 2005. GAO has identified shortfalls, including acquisition programs lacking key analyses and schedules.

H.R. 1912, the DHS Acquisition Documentation Integrity Act of 2019, would attempt to address some of these concerns by requiring DHS to maintain complete, accurate, timely, and valid documentation for all its major acquisitions. This includes documentation such as lifecycle cost estimates, cost-benefit analyses, and project schedules. Codifying these acquisition documentation requirements, which are already embodied in DHS acquisition policy, is necessary to safeguard against future cost overruns and schedule delays.

A previous version of this bill passed the House unanimously in the 115th Congress, and I urge my colleagues to pass it again today.

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. 1912, the DHS Acquisition Documentation Integrity Act of 2019. This legislation requires the Department of Homeland Security to better document its major acquisition programs that are essential to keeping America safe.

While every Member of Congress will agree that protecting our Nation and its citizens is vitally important, we must also agree that protecting taxpayer dollars and ensuring accountability for the government agencies is also essential.

The Government Accountability Office assists Congress in its efforts to ensure accountability by producing a report every 2 years that identifies areas in the Federal Government that are at high risk of waste, fraud, and

abuse. Major acquisitions by DHS have consistently been identified by the GAO as high risk.

This legislation requires DHS to improve management of its major purchases of systems to secure the border, provide screening for travelers, and protect our shores, and for our other vital missions.

Too often, DHS has failed to document what these programs will cost, when they will be completed, and what they will deliver. It is unacceptable to spend billions of taxpayer dollars and not document this important information.

To address these issues, DHS has updated its acquisition policy to follow corporate best practices. However, it must take additional steps to ensure its components adhere to these policies.

H.R. 1912 provides important tools to ensure that these policies are being followed. It will improve visibility into DHS major acquisition programs and promote better management of DHS acquisitions of items that are expected to cost more than \$300 million.

Under the bill, the Undersecretary for Management must require the relevant component or office to maintain documentation that provides validated operational requirements, a complete lifecycle cost estimate, an independent verification of that cost estimate, a cost-benefit analysis of the program, and a complete schedule for the acquisition program.

With this documentation, Congress and other government watchdogs will be able to conduct necessary oversight to ensure that taxpayer dollars are being spent efficiently and effectively.

This bill passed the House of Representatives by voice vote in both the 114th and 115th Congresses.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Representative TORRES SMALL for reintroducing this language, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, it is not enough for the Department of Homeland Security to simply analyze the upfront costs of acquiring systems to fulfill capability gaps. DHS must also budget for the long-term operation and maintenance costs of a system.

Given the criticality and budgetary risks associated with major acquisitions, it is critical that requirements are created, alternatives are considered, a cost estimate is completed, and a schedule is developed.

It falls to us, the Congress, to ensure that the Department has reliable acquisition documentation in place. Enactment of H.R. 1912 will ensure that DHS does its homework and is a good steward of taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Speaker, 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. 1912.

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.

QUADRENNIAL HOMELAND SECURITY REVIEW TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT OF 2019

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1892) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make technical corrections to the requirement that the Secretary of Homeland Security submit quadrennial homeland security reviews, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1892

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 “Quadrennial Homeland Security Review Technical Corrections Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO QUADRENNIAL HOMELAND SECURITY REVIEW.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 707 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 347) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” after the semicolon at the end;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D); and

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

“(C) representatives from appropriate advisory committees established pursuant to section 871, including the Homeland Security Advisory Council and the Homeland Security Science and Technology Advisory Committee, or otherwise established, including the Aviation Security Advisory Committee established pursuant to section 44946 of title 49, United States Code; and”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: “based on the risk assessment required pursuant to subsection (c)(2)(B)”;

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by inserting “, to the extent practicable,” after “describe”; and

(ii) by striking “budget plan” and inserting “resources required”;

(C) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by inserting “, to the extent practicable,” after “identify”; and

(ii) by striking “budget plan required to provide sufficient resources to successfully” and inserting “resources required to”; and

(iii) by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting the following: “, including any resources identified from redundant, wasteful, or unnecessary capabilities or capacities that may be redirected to better support other existing capabilities or capacities, as the case may be; and”;

(D) in paragraph (5), by striking “; and” and inserting a period; and

(E) by striking paragraph (6);

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “December 31 of the year” and inserting “60 days

after the date of the submission of the President’s budget for the fiscal year after the fiscal year”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by striking “description of the threats to” and inserting “risk assessment of”;

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “, as required under subsection (b)(2)” before the semicolon at the end;

(iii) in subparagraph (D)—

(I) by inserting “to the extent practicable,” before “a description”; and

(II) by striking “budget plan” and inserting “resources required”;

(iv) in subparagraph (F)—

(I) by inserting “to the extent practicable,” before “a discussion”; and

(II) by striking “the status of”;

(v) in subparagraph (G)—

(I) by inserting “to the extent practicable,” before “a discussion”;

(II) by striking “the status of”;

(III) by inserting “and risks” before “to national homeland”; and

(IV) by inserting “and” after the semicolon at the end;

(vi) by striking subparagraph (H); and

(vii) by redesignating subparagraph (I) as subparagraph (H);

(C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

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

“(3) DOCUMENTATION.—The Secretary shall retain and, upon request, provide to Congress the following documentation regarding each quadrennial homeland security review:

“(A) Records regarding the consultation carried out pursuant to subsection (a)(3), including the following:

“(i) All written communications, including communications sent out by the Secretary and feedback submitted to the Secretary through technology, online communications tools, in-person discussions, and the interagency process.

“(ii) Information on how feedback received by the Secretary informed each such quadrennial homeland security review.

“(B) Information regarding the risk assessment required pursuant to subsection (c)(2)(B), including the following:

“(i) The risk model utilized to generate such risk assessment.

“(ii) Information, including data used in the risk model, utilized to generate such risk assessment.

“(iii) Sources of information, including other risk assessments, utilized to generate such risk assessment.

“(iv) Information on assumptions, weighing factors, and subjective judgments utilized to generate such risk assessment, together with information on the rationale or basis thereof.”;

(4) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e); and

(5) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection:

“(d) REVIEW.—Not later than 90 days after the submission of each report required under subsection (c)(1), the Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate information on the degree to which the findings and recommendations developed in the quadrennial homeland security review that is the subject of such report were integrated into the acquisition strategy and expenditure plans for the Department.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this Act shall apply with respect to a quadrennial homeland security review conducted after December 31, 2021.

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. 1829, the Quadrennial Homeland Security Review Technical Corrections Act. This bill, authored by Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN of New Jersey, will ensure that the Quadrennial Homeland Security Review, or QHSR, is a driving vision for the Department of Homeland Security.

Given the importance of DHS’ mission, it is vital that the Department continually review its policy positions so that they, with Congress’ help, can continue to stay ahead of the constantly changing threats facing our country.

By enacting this legislation, Congress can see that DHS carries out its long-overdue third QHSR and stays focused on the mission.

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 in strong support of H.R. 1892, the Quadrennial Homeland Security Review Technical Corrections Act of 2019.

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In the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007, Congress required the Department of Homeland Security to conduct a security review every 4 years. As the threats to the United States change and evolve, it is more important than ever for DHS to produce a robust strategy to protect the American public.

The Quadrennial Homeland Security Review, or QHSR, is intended to outline DHS’ strategic outlook in its plan to successfully carry out its mission to protect our homeland. Thus far, DHS has produced two QHSRs since the requirement was established: one in 2010 and its most recent one in 2014. We are currently awaiting the release of the 2018 QHSR, which is quite a bit behind schedule.

The Government Accountability Office has reviewed both reports and made recommendations on how DHS could improve its efforts for future quadrennial reviews. In its 2016 review of the most recent QHSR, the GAO