

Union Calendar No. 298

116TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4737

[Report No. 116–375]

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security to research and evaluate existing Federal research regarding approaches to mitigate climate change on homeland security to identify areas for further research within the Department, research and develop approaches to mitigate the consequences of climate change on homeland security, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 18, 2019

Ms. CLARKE of New York (for herself and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

JANUARY 10, 2020

Additional sponsor: Ms. UNDERWOOD

JANUARY 10, 2020

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italics]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on October 18, 2019]

A BILL

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security to research and evaluate existing Federal research regarding approaches to mitigate climate change on homeland security to identify areas for further research within the Department, research and develop approaches to mitigate the consequences of climate change on 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 “Department of Home-*
5 *land Security Climate Change Research Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. CLIMATE CHANGE PLANNING, RESEARCH AND DE-**
7 **VELOPMENT, AND PROTECTION AND PRE-**
8 **PAREDNESS.**

9 *(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Homeland Security*
10 *Act of 2002 is amended by adding at the end the following*
11 *new section:*

12 **“SEC. 321. CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH AND DEVELOP-**
13 **MENT.**

14 *“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary for Science*
15 *and Technology—*

16 *“(1) shall evaluate existing Federal research re-*
17 *garding approaches to mitigate the consequence of cli-*
18 *mate change on homeland security to identify areas*
19 *for additional research and development pursuant to*
20 *paragraph (2) with respect to—*

21 *“(A) any connection between climate change*
22 *and homeland security, including how the result-*
23 *ing competition for resources, economic distress,*
24 *and social discontent has contributed to, among*
25 *other outcomes, acts of terrorism;*

1 “(B) the degree to which climate change is
2 reflected in terrorism preparedness and emer-
3 gency planning and policies, including with re-
4 spect to preparedness, response to, and recovery
5 from natural disasters; and

6 “(C) the degree to which the Federal fund-
7 ing structure to respond to major disaster dec-
8 larations and emergency declarations is ade-
9 quately structured to meet the demands of re-
10 sponding to and recovering from acts of ter-
11 rorism and natural disasters that are aggravated
12 by climate change; and

13 “(2) shall, to the extent practicable, conduct re-
14 search and development on approaches to mitigate the
15 consequences of climate change on homeland security
16 in response to finding pursuant to paragraph (1).

17 “(b) SCOPE.—The scope of the research and develop-
18 ment under subsection (a)(2) shall include the following:

19 “(1) Any connection between climate change and
20 homeland security, including how the resulting com-
21 petition for resources, economic distress, and social
22 discontent can contribute to, among other outcomes,
23 acts of terrorism.

24 “(2) The degree to which climate change is re-
25 flected in terrorism preparedness and emergency

1 *planning and policies, including with respect to pre-*
2 *paredness, response to, and recovery from natural dis-*
3 *asters.*

4 “(3) *The degree to which the Federal funding*
5 *structure to respond to major disaster declarations*
6 *and emergency declarations is adequately structured*
7 *to meet the demands of responding to and recovering*
8 *from acts of terrorism and natural disasters that are*
9 *aggravated by climate change.*

10 “(c) *CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this section, the*
11 *Under Secretary for Science and Technology shall consult*
12 *with the heads of other relevant agencies and departments*
13 *of the Federal Government, first responders, and relevant*
14 *owners and operators of critical infrastructure.*

15 “(d) *CLIMATE CHANGE DEFINED.—The term ‘climate*
16 *change’ refers to detectable changes in one or more climate*
17 *system components that is directly or indirectly attributed*
18 *to—*

19 “(1) *human activity; and*

20 “(2) *altering the composition of the global atmos-*
21 *phere.”.*

22 (b) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in*
23 *section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is*
24 *amended by inserting after the item relating to section 320*
25 *the following new item:*

 “Sec. 321. *Climate change research and development.*”.

1 **SEC. 3. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

2 *Not later than one year after the date of the enactment*
3 *of this Act and annually thereafter for three years, the*
4 *Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the Depart-*
5 *ment of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee*
6 *on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and*
7 *the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental*
8 *Affairs of the Senate a report on any research and develop-*
9 *ment activities carried out pursuant to section 321 of the*
10 *Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by this Act.*

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