

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2390

To require a review of university-based centers for homeland security, and
for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 18, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi (for himself and Mr. RICHMOND) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require a review of university-based centers for 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 “Homeland Security
5 University-based Centers Review Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. REVIEW OF UNIVERSITY-BASED CENTERS.**

7 (a) GAO STUDY OF UNIVERSITY-BASED CENTERS.—

8 Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of

1 this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States
2 shall initiate a study to assess the university-based centers
3 for homeland security program authorized by section
4 308(b)(2) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6
5 U.S.C. 188(b)(2)), and provide recommendations to the
6 Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Rep-
7 resentatives and the Committee on Homeland Security
8 and Governmental Affairs of the Senate for appropriate
9 improvements.

10 (b) SUBJECT MATTERS.—The study under sub-
11 section (a) shall include the following:

12 (1) A review of the Department of Homeland
13 Security’s efforts to identify key areas of study need-
14 ed to support the homeland security mission, and
15 criteria that the Department utilized to determine
16 those key areas for which the Department should
17 maintain, establish, or eliminate university-based
18 centers.

19 (2) A review of the method by which university-
20 based centers, federally funded research and develop-
21 ment centers, and Department of Energy national
22 laboratories receive tasking from the Department of
23 Homeland Security, including a review of how uni-
24 versity-based research is identified, prioritized, and
25 funded.

1 (3) A review of selection criteria for designating
2 university-based centers and a weighting of such cri-
3 teria.

4 (4) An examination of best practices from other
5 agencies' efforts to organize and use university-
6 based research to support their missions.

7 (5) A review of the Department of Homeland
8 Security's criteria and metrics to measure demon-
9 strable progress achieved by university-based centers
10 in fulfilling Department taskings, and mechanisms
11 for delivering and disseminating the research results
12 of designated university-based centers within the De-
13 partment and to other Federal, State, and local
14 agencies.

15 (6) An examination of the means by which aca-
16 demic institutions that are not designated or associ-
17 ated with the designated university-based centers
18 can optimally contribute to the research mission of
19 the Directorate of Science and Technology of the
20 Department of Homeland Security.

21 (7) An assessment of the interrelationship be-
22 tween the different university-based centers and the
23 degree to which outreach and collaboration among a
24 diverse array of academic institutions is encouraged
25 by the Department of Homeland Security, particu-

1 larly with historically Black colleges and universities
2 and minority serving institutions.

3 (8) A review of any other essential elements of
4 the programs determined in the conduct of the
5 study.

6 (c) INFORMATION RELATING TO UNIVERSITY-BASED
7 CENTERS.—Subparagraph (D) of section 308(b)(2) of the
8 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 188(b)(2)) is
9 amended to read as follows:

10 “(D) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

11 Not later than one year after the date of the
12 enactment of this subparagraph and annually
13 thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the
14 Committee on Homeland Security of the House
15 of Representatives and the Committee on
16 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
17 of the Senate a report on the implementation of
18 this section. Each such report shall—

19 “(i) indicate which center or centers
20 have been designated pursuant to this sec-
21 tion;

22 “(ii) describe how such designation or
23 designations enhance homeland security;

1 “(iii) provide information on any deci-
2 sions to revoke or modify such designation
3 or designations;

4 “(iv) describe research that has been
5 tasked and completed by each center that
6 has been designated during the preceding
7 year;

8 “(v) describe funding provided by the
9 Secretary for each center under clause (iv)
10 for that year; and

11 “(vi) describe plans for utilization of
12 each center or centers in the forthcoming
13 year.”.

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