

Union Calendar No. 282

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2795

[Report No. 114-370]

To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit a study on the circumstances which may impact the effectiveness and availability of first responders before, during, or after a terrorist threat or event.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 16, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE (for herself, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. BASS, Ms. LEE, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Mr. PALLONE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

DECEMBER 7, 2015

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 *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on June 16, 2015]

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit a study on the circumstances which may impact the effectiveness and availability of first responders before, during, or after a terrorist threat or event.

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 “First Responder Identi-*
5 *fication of Emergency Needs in Disaster Situations” or the*
6 *“FRIENDS Act”.*

7 **SEC. 2. CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH MAY IMPACT FIRST RE-**
8 **SPONDERS DURING A TERRORIST EVENT.**

9 *(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the*
10 *date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General*
11 *of the United States shall submit to the Committee on*
12 *Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the*
13 *Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Af-*
14 *airs of the Senate a report that describes select State and*
15 *local programs and policies, as appropriate, related to the*
16 *preparedness and protection of first responders. The report*
17 *may include information on—*

18 *(1) the degree to which such programs and poli-*
19 *cies include consideration of the presence of a first re-*
20 *sponder’s family in an area impacted by a terrorist*
21 *attack;*

22 *(2) the availability of personal protective equip-*
23 *ment for first responders;*

1 (3) *the availability of home Medkits for first re-*
2 *sponders and their families for biological incident re-*
3 *sponse; and*

4 (4) *other related factors.*

5 (b) *CONTEXT.—In preparing the report required under*
6 *subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States*
7 *may, as appropriate, provide information—*

8 (1) *in a format that delineates high risk urban*
9 *areas from rural communities; and*

10 (2) *on the degree to which the selected State and*
11 *local programs and policies included in the report*
12 *were developed or are being executed with funding*
13 *from the Department of Homeland Security, includ-*
14 *ing grant funding from the State Homeland Security*
15 *Grant Program or the Urban Area Security Initiative*
16 *under sections 2002 and 2003, respectively, of the*
17 *Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 603 and*
18 *604).*

19 (c) *HOMELAND SECURITY CONSIDERATION.—After*
20 *issuance of the report required under subsection (a), the*
21 *Secretary of Homeland Security shall consider the report's*
22 *findings and assess its applicability for Federal first re-*
23 *sponders.*

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