

Union Calendar No. 263

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2899

[Report No. 114–344]

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Office for
Countering Violent Extremism.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 2015

Mr. McCAUL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Homeland Security

NOVEMBER 19, 2015

Additional sponsors: Mr. KATKO, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. WALKER, Mr.
DONOVAN, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. MARINO

NOVEMBER 19, 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 *italie*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on June 25, 2015]

A BILL

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize
the Office for Countering Violent Extremism.

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 “Countering Violent Ex-*
 5 *tremism Act of 2015” or the “CVE Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF THE OFFICE FOR COUNTERING**
 7 **VIOLENT EXTREMISM OF THE DEPARTMENT**
 8 **OF HOMELAND SECURITY.**

9 *(a) IN GENERAL.—Title I of the Homeland Security*
 10 *Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is amended by adding*
 11 *at the end the following new section:*

12 **“SEC. 104. OFFICE FOR COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM.**

13 *“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is in the Department*
 14 *an Office for Countering Violent Extremism. The head of*
 15 *the Office shall be the Assistant Secretary for Countering*
 16 *Violent Extremism, who shall be appointed by the Sec-*
 17 *retary. The Secretary shall also appoint a career Deputy*
 18 *Assistant Secretary for Countering Violent Extremism.*

19 *“(b) ASSIGNMENT OF PERSONNEL.—The Secretary*
 20 *shall assign or hire, as appropriate, permanent staff to the*
 21 *Office for Countering Violent Extremism. In carrying out*
 22 *this subsection, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent*
 23 *practicable, seek to assign to or hire for the Office an indi-*
 24 *vidual who has a demonstrated background in technical*

1 *matters, on and offline media, communications, or mar-*
2 *keting.*

3 “(c) *SUPPORT.*—*The Secretary shall appoint within*
4 *each appropriate component and office of the Department,*
5 *including at a minimum, U.S. Customs and Border Protec-*
6 *tion, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, United*
7 *States Citizenship and Immigration Services, the Office of*
8 *Privacy, the National Protection and Programs Direc-*
9 *torate, the Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, the*
10 *Secret Service, and the Science and Technology Directorate,*
11 *an individual to serve as liaison to the Office for Coun-*
12 *tering Violent Extremism.*

13 “(d) *RESPONSIBILITIES.*—*The Assistant Secretary for*
14 *Countering Violent Extremism shall be responsible for the*
15 *following:*

16 “(1) *Coordinating the Department’s activities to*
17 *counter violent extremism across all the components*
18 *and offices of the Department that conduct strategic*
19 *and supportive activities to counter violent extre-*
20 *mism. Such activities shall include the following:*

21 “(A) *Identifying risk factors that contribute*
22 *to violent extremism in communities in the*
23 *United States and potential remedies for use by*
24 *Government and non-government institutions.*

1 “(B) *Identifying populations targeted by*
2 *violent extremist propaganda, messaging, or re-*
3 *cruitment.*

4 “(C) *Managing the outreach and engage-*
5 *ment activities of the Department directed to-*
6 *ward communities at risk for radicalization and*
7 *recruitment for violent extremist activities.*

8 “(D) *Ensuring relevant information, em-*
9 *pirically-valid research, and products inform ac-*
10 *tivities to counter violent extremism.*

11 “(E) *Developing and maintaining a De-*
12 *partment-wide strategy guiding policies and pro-*
13 *grams to counter violent extremism. Such strat-*
14 *egy shall, at a minimum, address each of the fol-*
15 *lowing:*

16 “(i) *The Department’s counter-mes-*
17 *saging program pursuant to paragraph (2),*
18 *including a plan to leverage new and exist-*
19 *ing Internet, digital, and other technologies*
20 *and social media platforms to counter vio-*
21 *lent extremism, as well as the best practices*
22 *and lessons learned of other Federal, State,*
23 *local, tribal, territorial, nongovernmental,*
24 *and foreign partners engaged in similar*
25 *counter-messaging activities.*

1 “(ii) *The Department’s countering vio-*
2 *lent extremism-related engagement and out-*
3 *reach activities.*

4 “(iii) *The use of cooperative agree-*
5 *ments with State, local, tribal, territorial,*
6 *and other Federal departments and agencies*
7 *responsible for activities relating to coun-*
8 *tering violent extremism.*

9 “(iv) *Ensuring all activities related to*
10 *countering violent extremism fully respect*
11 *the privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties*
12 *of all Americans.*

13 “(v) *The development of qualitative*
14 *and quantitative outcome-based metrics to*
15 *evaluate the Department’s programs and*
16 *policies to counter violent extremism.*

17 “(F) *Identifying and recommending new re-*
18 *search and analysis requirements in consultation*
19 *with the Under Secretary for Science and Tech-*
20 *nology and the Under Secretary for Intelligence*
21 *and Analysis and ensure the dissemination of*
22 *information and methods to Federal, State, local,*
23 *tribal, and territorial countering violent extre-*
24 *mism practitioners, officials, law enforcement,*

1 *and non-governmental partners to utilize such*
2 *research and analysis.*

3 “(G) *Assessing the methods used by violent*
4 *extremists to disseminate propaganda and mes-*
5 *saging to communities at risk for radicalization*
6 *and recruitment.*

7 “(2) *Establishing a counter-messaging program*
8 *to craft strategic counter-messages to the propaganda*
9 *and messaging referred to in subparagraph (G) of*
10 *paragraph (1) which shall—*

11 “(A) *explore ways to utilize relevant Inter-*
12 *net and other technologies and social media plat-*
13 *forms; and*

14 “(B) *maximize other resources available to*
15 *the Department, including utilizing hiring au-*
16 *thorities available under law.*

17 “(3) *Serving as the primary representative of the*
18 *Department in coordinating countering violent extre-*
19 *mism activities with other Federal departments and*
20 *agencies and non-governmental organizations.*

21 “(4) *Serving as the primary Department-level*
22 *representative in coordinating with the Department of*
23 *State on international countering violent extremism*
24 *issues.*

1 “(5) *In coordination with the Administrator of*
2 *the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the*
3 *Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties of the De-*
4 *partment, providing guidance regarding the use of*
5 *grants made to State, local, and tribal governments*
6 *under sections 2003 and 2004 under the allowable*
7 *uses guidelines related to countering violent extre-*
8 *mism.*

9 “(6) *Coordinating with the Administrator of the*
10 *Federal Emergency Management Agency to admin-*
11 *ister the grant program under subsection (f).*

12 “(e) *MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Assist-*
13 *ant Secretary for Countering Violent Extremism shall enter*
14 *into a memorandum of understanding with the Adminis-*
15 *trator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency out-*
16 *lining the roles of the Assistant Secretary and the Adminis-*
17 *trator with respect to the administration of grants under*
18 *sections 2003 and 2004 related to countering violent extre-*
19 *mism.*

20 “(f) *GRANT PROGRAM.—*

21 “(1) *ESTABLISHMENT.—The Assistant Secretary*
22 *for Countering Violent Extremism, in coordination*
23 *with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency*
24 *Management Agency and the Officer for Civil Rights*
25 *and Civil Liberties of the Department, shall establish*

1 *a grant program for eligible community groups and*
2 *organizations to assist such groups and organizations*
3 *in establishing counter-messaging campaigns tar-*
4 *geting violent extremism.*

5 “(2) *IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.*—Not later than 90
6 *days after the date of the enactment of this section,*
7 *the Assistant Secretary for Countering Violent Extre-*
8 *mism, in coordination with the Administrator of the*
9 *Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Offi-*
10 *cer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties of the Depart-*
11 *ment, shall provide to the Committee on Homeland*
12 *Security of the House of Representatives and the*
13 *Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental*
14 *Affairs of the Senate an implementation plan for the*
15 *grant program under this subsection, including eligi-*
16 *bility criteria, application criteria, methodology for*
17 *awarding grants, and a plan for monitoring and*
18 *evaluating grant applications and awards.*

19 “(3) *PROHIBITION.*—A community group or or-
20 *ganization is not eligible for a grant under this sub-*
21 *section if such group or organization has knowingly*
22 *funded violent extremist activities or organizations*
23 *known to engage in such activities, as determined by*
24 *the Assistant Secretary for Countering Violent Extre-*

1 *mism, in coordination with the heads of other rel-*
2 *evant Federal departments and agencies.*

3 *“(g) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Assistant Secretary for*
4 *Countering Violent Extremism shall submit to Congress an*
5 *annual report for each of the next five fiscal years (begin-*
6 *ning in the fiscal year that begins after the date of the en-*
7 *actment of this section) on the Office for Countering Violent*
8 *Extremism. Each such report shall include the following:*

9 *“(1) A description of the status of the programs*
10 *and policies of the Department for countering violent*
11 *extremism in the United States, including the budget*
12 *of the Department for countering violent extremism*
13 *and the number of full-time employees dedicated to*
14 *countering violent extremism programs, as well as the*
15 *number of part-time employees supporting countering*
16 *violent extremism programs. Each such budget shall*
17 *include an accounting of all funding amounts for all*
18 *departmental programs, initiatives, and personnel re-*
19 *lated to countering violent extremism.*

20 *“(2) A description of the activities of the Office*
21 *to cooperate with and provide assistance to other de-*
22 *partments and agencies.*

23 *“(3) The qualitative and quantitative outcome-*
24 *based metrics under clause (v) of subsection (d)(1)(E)*
25 *used for evaluating the success of such programs and*

1 *policies and the steps taken to evaluate the success of*
2 *such programs and policies.*

3 *“(4) A detailed summary of the organizations*
4 *with which the Department conducted outreach to dis-*
5 *cuss countering violent extremism, an accounting of*
6 *grants awarded by the Department to counter violent*
7 *extremism, and an accounting of all training specifi-*
8 *cally aimed at countering violent extremism spon-*
9 *sored by the Department.*

10 *“(5) Details of the optimal level of personnel and*
11 *funding for the Office.*

12 *“(6) An analysis of how the Department’s activi-*
13 *ties to counter violent extremism correspond and*
14 *adapt to the threat environment.*

15 *“(7) A summary of how civil rights and civil lib-*
16 *erties are protected in the Department’s activities to*
17 *counter violent extremism.*

18 *“(8) An evaluation of the grant program under*
19 *subsection (f), including information on the effective-*
20 *ness of such grants in countering violent extremism.*

21 *“(9) A description of how the Office incorporated*
22 *lessons learned from the countering violent extremism*
23 *programs and policies of other Foreign departments*
24 *and agencies, as well as foreign, State, local, tribal,*

1 *and territorial governments and stakeholder commu-*
2 *nities.*

3 “(h) *VIOLENT EXTREMISM DEFINED.*—*In this section,*
4 *the term ‘violent extremism’ means ideologically motivated*
5 *terrorist activities.*

6 “(i) *AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDING.*—*Out of funds*
7 *made available to the Office of the Secretary, \$10,000,000*
8 *is authorized to be used for the Office for Countering Violent*
9 *Extremism for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020, of*
10 *which \$6,000,000 shall be used to carry out the grant pro-*
11 *gram under subsection (f).*

12 “(j) *SUNSET.*—*This section shall terminate on the date*
13 *that is five years after the date of the enactment of this*
14 *section.”.*

15 (b) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—*The table of contents in*
16 *section 1(b) of such Act is amended by inserting after the*
17 *item relating to section 103 the following new item:*

“Sec. 104. Office for Countering Violent Extremism.”.

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