

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3490

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the National Computer Forensics Institute, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 11, 2015

Mr. RATCLIFFE (for himself, Mr. McCAUL, and Mr. PALMER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, 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

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## A BILL

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the National Computer Forensics Institute, 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 “Strengthening State  
5       and Local Cyber Crime Fighting Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF THE NATIONAL COMPUTER**  
2 **FORENSICS INSTITUTE OF THE DEPARTMENT**  
3 **OF HOMELAND SECURITY.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle C of title VIII of the  
5 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 381 et seq.)  
6 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

7 **“SEC. 822. NATIONAL COMPUTER FORENSICS INSTITUTE.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the De-  
9 partment a National Computer Forensics Institute (in this  
10 section referred to as the ‘Institute’), to be operated by  
11 the United States Secret Service, for the dissemination of  
12 homeland security information related to the investigation  
13 and prevention of cyber and electronic crime, including  
14 threats of terrorism or acts of terrorism, to educate, train,  
15 and equip State, local, tribal, and territorial law enforce-  
16 ment officers, prosecutors, and judges.

17 “(b) FUNCTIONS.—The functions of the Institute  
18 shall include the following:

19 “(1) Educating State, local, tribal, and terri-  
20 torial law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and  
21 judges on current—

22 “(A) cyber and electronic crimes and re-  
23 lated threats, including threats of terrorism or  
24 acts of terrorism;

25 “(B) methods for investigating cyber and  
26 electronic crimes, including crimes related to

1 threats of terrorism or acts of terrorism, and  
2 conducting computer and mobile device forensic  
3 examinations; and

4 “(C) prosecutorial and judicial challenges  
5 related to cyber and electronic crimes, and com-  
6 puter and mobile device forensic examinations.

7 “(2) Training State, local, tribal, and territorial  
8 law enforcement officers to—

9 “(A) conduct cyber and electronic crime in-  
10 vestigations, including such investigations re-  
11 lated to threats of terrorism or acts of ter-  
12 rorism;

13 “(B) conduct computer and mobile device  
14 forensic examinations; and

15 “(C) respond to network intrusion inci-  
16 dents, including incidents related to threats of  
17 terrorism or acts of terrorism.

18 “(3) Training State, local, tribal, and territorial  
19 law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges on  
20 methods to obtain, process, store, and admit digital  
21 evidence in court.

22 “(c) PRINCIPLES.—In carrying out the functions  
23 under subsection (b), the Institute shall ensure, to the ex-  
24 tent practicable, that timely, actionable, and relevant ex-  
25 pertise and homeland security information related to cyber

1 and electronic crime, including threats of terrorism or acts  
2 of terrorism, is shared with State, local, tribal, and terri-  
3 torial law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges.

4 “(d) EQUIPMENT.—The Institute is authorized to  
5 provide State, local, tribal, and territorial law enforcement  
6 officers, prosecutors, and judges with computer equip-  
7 ment, hardware, software, manuals, and tools necessary  
8 to conduct cyber and electronic crimes investigations and  
9 computer and mobile device forensic examinations.

10 “(e) ELECTRONIC CRIME TASK FORCES.—The Insti-  
11 tute shall facilitate the expansion of the Secret Service’s  
12 network of Electronic Crime Task Forces through the ad-  
13 dition of task force officers of State, local, tribal, and ter-  
14 ritorial law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and judges  
15 educated and trained at the Institute, in addition to aca-  
16 demia and private sector stakeholders.”.

17 (b) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDING.—No additional funds  
18 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act  
19 and the amendment made by this Act. This Act and such  
20 amendment shall be carried out using amounts otherwise  
21 available for such purposes.

22 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
23 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by in-

- 1 inserting after the item relating to section 821 the following
- 2 new item:

“Sec. 822. National Computer Forensics Institute.”.

