

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 623

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Department of Homeland Security to establish a social media working group, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 30, 2015

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana (for herself, Mr. McCAUL, and Mr. PAYNE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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

A BILL

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Department of Homeland Security to establish a social media working group, 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 “Social Media Working
5 Group Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. SOCIAL MEDIA WORKING GROUP.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Homeland Secu-
3 rity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) is amended by
4 adding at the end the following new section:

5 **“SEC. 318. SOCIAL MEDIA WORKING GROUP.**

6 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
7 lish within the Department a social media working group
8 (in this section referred to as the ‘Group’).

9 “(b) PURPOSE.—In order to enhance information
10 sharing between the Department and appropriate stake-
11 holders, the Group shall provide guidance and best prac-
12 tices to the emergency preparedness and response commu-
13 nity on the use of social media technologies before, during,
14 and after a terrorist attack or other emergency.

15 “(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary for
17 Science and Technology shall serve as the permanent
18 chairperson of the Group, and shall designate, on a
19 rotating basis, a representative from a State or local
20 government who is a member of the Group to serve
21 as co-chairperson. The Under Secretary shall estab-
22 lish term limits for individuals appointed to the
23 Group pursuant to paragraph (2). Membership of
24 the Group shall be composed of a cross section of
25 subject matter experts from Federal, State, local,
26 tribal, and nongovernmental organization practi-

tioners, including representatives from the following entities:

“(A) The Office of Public Affairs of the Department.

“(B) The Office of the Chief Information Officer of the Department.

“(C) The Privacy Office of the Department.

“(D) The Federal Emergency Management Agency.

“(E) The Office of Disability Integration and Coordination of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

“(F) The American Red Cross.

“(G) The Forest Service.

“(H) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“(I) The United States Geological Survey.

“(J) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

“(2) ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.—The Under Secretary for Science and Technology shall appoint, on a rotating basis, qualified individuals to the Group. The total number of such additional members shall—

1 “(A) be equal to or greater than the total
 2 number of regular members under paragraph
 3 (1); and

4 “(B) include—

5 “(i) not fewer than three representa-
 6 tives from the private sector; and

7 “(ii) representatives from—

8 “(I) State, local, and tribal enti-
 9 ties, including from—

10 “(aa) law enforcement;

11 “(bb) fire services;

12 “(cc) emergency manage-
 13 ment; and

14 “(dd) public health entities;

15 “(II) universities and academia;

16 and

17 “(III) non-profit disaster relief
 18 organizations.

19 “(d) CONSULTATION WITH NON-MEMBERS.—To the
 20 extent practicable, the Group shall work with existing bod-
 21 ies in the public and private sectors to carry out subsection
 22 (b).

23 “(e) MEETINGS.—

24 “(1) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 90
 25 days after the date of the enactment of this section,

1 the Group shall hold its initial meeting. Such initial
2 meeting may be held virtually.

3 “(2) SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS.—After the initial
4 meeting under paragraph (1), the Group shall meet
5 at least twice each year, or at the call of the Chair-
6 person. Such subsequent meetings may be held vir-
7 tually.

8 “(f) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FACA.—The Federal
9 Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply
10 to the Group.

11 “(g) REPORTS.—Not later than March 30 of each
12 year, the Group shall submit to the appropriate congres-
13 sional committees a report that includes the following:

14 “(1) A review of current and emerging social
15 media technologies being used to support prepared-
16 ness and response activities related to terrorist at-
17 tacks and other emergencies.

18 “(2) A review of best practices and lessons
19 learned on the use of social media during the re-
20 sponse to terrorist attacks and other emergencies
21 that occurred during the period covered by the re-
22 port at issue.

23 “(3) Recommendations to improve the Depart-
24 ment’s use of social media for emergency manage-
25 ment purposes.

1 “(4) Recommendations to improve public
2 awareness of the type of information disseminated
3 through social media, and how to access such infor-
4 mation, during a terrorist attack or other emer-
5 gency.

6 “(5) Recommendations to improve information
7 sharing among the Department and its components.

8 “(6) Recommendations to improve information
9 sharing among State and local governments.

10 “(7) A review of available training for Federal,
11 State, local, and tribal officials on the use of social
12 media in response to a terrorist attack or other
13 emergency.

14 “(8) A summary of coordination efforts with
15 the private sector to discuss and resolve legal, oper-
16 ational, technical, privacy, and security concerns.”.

17 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
18 in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is
19 amended by inserting after the item relating to section
20 317 the following new item:

“Sec. 318. Social media working group.”.

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