

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1282

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish Acquisition Review Boards in the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 1, 2017

Mr. GARRETT (for himself and Mr. McCAUL) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

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## A BILL

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish Acquisition Review Boards in the Department of 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 “DHS Acquisition Re-  
5 view Board Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. ACQUISITION REVIEW BOARD.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle D of title VIII of the  
8 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 391 et seq.)  
9 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

1 **“SEC. 836. ACQUISITION REVIEW BOARD.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish an  
3 Acquisition Review Board (in this section referred to as  
4 the ‘Board’) to—

5 “(1) strengthen accountability and uniformity  
6 within the Department acquisition review process;

7 “(2) review major acquisition programs; and

8 “(3) review the use of best practices.

9 “(b) COMPOSITION.—The Under Secretary for Man-  
10 agement shall serve as chair of the Board. The Secretary  
11 shall also ensure participation by other relevant Depart-  
12 ment officials, including at least two component heads or  
13 their designees, as permanent members of the Board.

14 “(c) MEETINGS.—The Board shall meet regularly for  
15 purposes of ensuring all acquisitions processes proceed in  
16 a timely fashion to achieve mission readiness. The Board  
17 shall convene at the Secretary’s discretion and at any  
18 time—

19 “(1) a major acquisition program—

20 “(A) requires authorization to proceed  
21 from one acquisition decision event to another  
22 throughout the acquisition life cycle;

23 “(B) is in breach of its approved require-  
24 ments; or

1           “(C) requires additional review, as deter-  
2           mined by the Under Secretary for Management;

3           or

4           “(2) a non-major acquisition program requires  
5           review, as determined by the Under Secretary for  
6           Management.

7           “(d) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The responsibilities of the  
8           Board are as follows:

9           “(1) Determine whether a proposed acquisition  
10          has met the requirements of key phases of the acqui-  
11          sition life cycle framework and is able to proceed to  
12          the next phase and eventual full production and de-  
13          ployment.

14          “(2) Oversee whether a proposed acquisition’s  
15          business strategy, resources, management, and ac-  
16          countability is executable and is aligned to strategic  
17          initiatives.

18          “(3) Support the person with acquisition deci-  
19          sion authority for an acquisition in determining the  
20          appropriate direction for such acquisition at key ac-  
21          quisition decision events.

22          “(4) Conduct systematic reviews of acquisitions  
23          to ensure that such acquisitions are progressing in  
24          compliance with the approved documents for their  
25          current acquisition phases.

1           “(5) Review the acquisition documents of each  
2 major acquisition program, including the acquisition  
3 program baseline and documentation reflecting con-  
4 sideration of tradeoffs among cost, schedule, and  
5 performance objectives, to ensure the reliability of  
6 underlying data.

7           “(6) Ensure that practices are adopted and im-  
8 plemented to require consideration of trade-offs  
9 among cost, schedule, and performance objectives as  
10 part of the process for developing requirements for  
11 major acquisition programs prior to the initiation of  
12 the second acquisition decision event, including, at a  
13 minimum, the following practices:

14           “(A) Department officials responsible for  
15 acquisition, budget, and cost estimating func-  
16 tions are provided with the appropriate oppor-  
17 tunity to develop estimates and raise cost and  
18 schedule matters before performance objectives  
19 are established for capabilities when feasible.

20           “(B) Full consideration is given to possible  
21 trade-offs among cost, schedule, and perform-  
22 ance objectives for each alternative.

23           “(e) ACQUISITION PROGRAM BASELINE REPORT RE-  
24 QUIREMENT.—If the person exercising acquisition decision  
25 authority over a major acquisition program approves such

1 program to proceed into the planning phase before such  
2 program has a Department-approved acquisition program  
3 baseline, the Under Secretary for Management shall cre-  
4 ate and approve an acquisition program baseline report  
5 regarding such approval, and the Secretary shall—

6           “(1) within seven days after an acquisition deci-  
7 sion memorandum is signed, notify in writing the  
8 Committee on Homeland Security of the House of  
9 Representatives and the Committee on Homeland  
10 Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate of  
11 such decision; and

12           “(2) within 60 days after the acquisition deci-  
13 sion memorandum is signed, submit to such commit-  
14 tees a report stating the rationale for such decision  
15 and a plan of action to require an acquisition pro-  
16 gram baseline for such program.

17           “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18           “(1) ACQUISITION.—The term ‘acquisition’ has  
19 the meaning given such term in section 131 of title  
20 41, United States Code.

21           “(2) ACQUISITION DECISION AUTHORITY.—The  
22 term ‘acquisition decision authority’ means the au-  
23 thority, held by the Secretary acting through the  
24 Deputy Secretary or Under Secretary for Manage-  
25 ment to—

1           “(A) ensure compliance with Federal law,  
2           the Federal Acquisition Regulation, and De-  
3           partment acquisition management directives;

4           “(B) review (including approving, pausing,  
5           modifying, or cancelling) an acquisition pro-  
6           gram through the life cycle of such program;

7           “(C) ensure that acquisition program man-  
8           agers have the resources necessary to success-  
9           fully execute an approved acquisition program;

10          “(D) ensure good acquisition program  
11          management of cost, schedule, risk, and system  
12          performance of the acquisition program at  
13          issue, including assessing acquisition program  
14          baseline breaches and directing any corrective  
15          action for such breaches; and

16          “(E) ensure that acquisition program man-  
17          agers, on an ongoing basis, monitor cost, sched-  
18          ule, and performance against established base-  
19          lines and use tools to assess risks to an acquisi-  
20          tion program at all phases of the life cycle of  
21          such program to avoid and mitigate acquisition  
22          program baseline breaches.

23          “(3) ACQUISITION DECISION EVENT.—The term  
24          ‘acquisition decision event’, with respect to an acqui-  
25          sition program, means a predetermined point within

1 each of the acquisition phases at which the acquisi-  
2 tion decision authority determines whether such ac-  
3 quisition program shall proceed to the next acquisi-  
4 tion phase.

5 “(4) ACQUISITION DECISION MEMORANDUM.—  
6 The term ‘acquisition decision memorandum’, with  
7 respect to an acquisition, means the official acquisi-  
8 tion decision event record that includes a docu-  
9 mented record of decisions, exit criteria, and as-  
10 signed actions for such acquisition, as determined by  
11 the person exercising acquisition decision authority  
12 for such acquisition.

13 “(5) ACQUISITION PROGRAM.—The term ‘acqui-  
14 sition program’ means the process by which the De-  
15 partment acquires, with any appropriated amounts,  
16 by contract for purchase or lease, property or serv-  
17 ices (including construction) that support the mis-  
18 sions and goals of the Department.

19 “(6) ACQUISITION PROGRAM BASELINE.—The  
20 term ‘acquisition program baseline’, with respect to  
21 an acquisition program, means a summary of the  
22 cost, schedule, and performance parameters, ex-  
23 pressed in standard, measurable, quantitative terms,  
24 which must be met in order to accomplish the goals  
25 of such program.

1           “(7) BEST PRACTICES.—The term ‘best prac-  
2           tices’, with respect to acquisition, means a knowl-  
3           edge-based approach to capability development that  
4           includes—

5                   “(A) identifying and validating needs;

6                   “(B) assessing alternatives to select the  
7                   most appropriate solution;

8                   “(C) clearly establishing well-defined re-  
9                   quirements;

10                  “(D) developing realistic cost assessments  
11                  and schedules;

12                  “(E) securing stable funding that matches  
13                  resources to requirements;

14                  “(F) demonstrating technology, design,  
15                  and manufacturing maturity;

16                  “(G) using milestones and exit criteria or  
17                  specific accomplishments that demonstrate  
18                  progress;

19                  “(H) adopting and executing standardized  
20                  processes with known success across programs;

21                  “(I) establishing an adequate workforce  
22                  that is qualified and sufficient to perform nec-  
23                  essary functions; and



1           “(J) integrating the capabilities described  
2           in subparagraphs (A) through (I) into the De-  
3           partment’s mission and business operations.

4           “(8) MAJOR ACQUISITION PROGRAM.—The term  
5           ‘major acquisition program’ means a Department  
6           acquisition program that is estimated by the Sec-  
7           retary to require an eventual total expenditure of at  
8           least \$300,000,000 (based on fiscal year 2017 con-  
9           stant dollars) over its life cycle cost.”.

10          (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
11         in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6  
12         U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is further amended by adding after  
13         the item relating to section 835 the following new item:

“Sec. 836. Acquisition Review Board.”.

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