

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1372

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to ensure that the needs of children are considered in homeland security planning, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 6, 2017

Mr. PAYNE (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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 ensure that the needs of children are considered in homeland security planning, 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 “Homeland Security
5 for Children Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR**
2 **STRATEGY, POLICY, AND PLANS.**

3 Subsection (c) of section 709 of the Homeland Secu-
4 rity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 349) is amended—

5 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (4) through
6 (7) as paragraphs (5) through (8), respectively; and

7 (2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-
8 lowing new paragraph:

9 “(4) lead, conduct, and coordinate Department-
10 wide identification and integration of the needs of
11 children into the Department’s policies, programs,
12 and activities, in coordination with relevant outside
13 organizations and experts, as necessary.”.

14 **SEC. 3. TECHNICAL EXPERT AUTHORIZED.**

15 Paragraph (2) of section 503(b) of the Homeland Se-
16 curity Act (6 U.S.C. 313(b)) is amended—

17 (1) in subparagraph (G), by striking “and” at
18 the end;

19 (2) in subparagraph (H), by striking the period
20 at the end and inserting “; and”; and

21 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
22 paragraph:

23 “(I) identify and integrate the needs of
24 children into activities to prepare for, protect
25 against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate
26 against the risk of natural disasters, acts of ter-

1 rorism, and other manmade disasters, including
2 catastrophic incidents, including by appointing
3 a technical expert, who may consult with rel-
4 evant outside organizations and experts, as nec-
5 essary, to coordinate such integration, as nec-
6 essary.”.

7 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

8 Not later than one year after the date of the enact-
9 ment of this Act and annually thereafter for five years,
10 the Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans of the
11 Department of Homeland Security shall submit to the
12 Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Rep-
13 resentatives and the Committee on Homeland Security
14 and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report describ-
15 ing the efforts the Department has undertaken to identify
16 and integrate the needs of children into the Department’s
17 policies, programs, and activities in accordance with para-
18 graph (4) of section 709(c) of the Homeland Security Act
19 of 2002 (as added by section 2 of this Act), including in-
20 formation on the following:

21 (1) The designation of any individual respon-
22 sible for carrying out such paragraph (4).

23 (2) Any review, formal or informal, of any poli-
24 cies, programs, or activities of the Department

1 under such paragraph (4) to assess the suitability of
2 such policies, programs, or activities for children.

3 (3) Any such review, change, modification, or
4 promulgation of any such policies, programs, or ac-
5 tivities to ensure that such policies, programs, or ac-
6 tivities are appropriate for children.

7 (4) Coordination with organizations or experts
8 outside the Department pursuant to such paragraph
9 (4) conducted to inform any such review, change,
10 modification, or promulgation of such policies, pro-
11 grams, or activities.

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