

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 240

To encourage engagement between the Department of Homeland Security and technology innovators, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 4, 2017

Mr. RATCLIFFE (for himself, Mr. MCCAUL, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

A BILL

To encourage engagement between the Department of Homeland Security and technology innovators, 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 “Leveraging Emerging
5 Technologies Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. INNOVATION ENGAGEMENT.**

7 (a) INNOVATION ENGAGEMENT.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland
9 Security—

1 (A) shall engage with innovative and
2 emerging technology developers and firms, in-
3 cluding technology-based small businesses and
4 startup ventures, to address homeland security
5 needs; and

6 (B) may identify geographic areas in the
7 United States with high concentrations of such
8 innovative and emerging technology developers
9 and firms, and may establish personnel and of-
10 fice space in such areas, as appropriate.

11 (2) ENGAGEMENT.—Engagement under para-
12 graph (1) may include innovative and emerging tech-
13 nology developers or firms with proven technologies,
14 supported with outside investment, with potential
15 applications for the Department of Homeland Secu-
16 rity.

17 (3) CO-LOCATION.—If the Secretary of Home-
18 land Security determines that it is appropriate to es-
19 tablish personnel and office space in a specific geo-
20 graphic area in the United States pursuant to para-
21 graph (1)(B), the Secretary shall co-locate such per-
22 sonnel and office space with other existing assets
23 of—

24 (A) the Department of Homeland Security,
25 where possible; or

1 (B) Federal facilities, where appropriate.

2 (4) OVERSIGHT.—Not later than 30 days after
3 establishing personnel and office space in a specific
4 geographic area in the United States pursuant to
5 paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall inform Congress about the rationale for
6 such establishment, the anticipated costs associated
7 with such establishment, and the specific goals for
8 such establishment.
9

10 (b) STRATEGIC PLAN.—Not later than six months
11 after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall develop, implement, and
12 submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the
13 House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a
14 Department of Homeland Security-wide strategy to
15 proactively engage with innovative and emerging technology developers and firms, including technology-based
16 small businesses and startup ventures, in accordance with
17 subsection (a). Such strategy shall—
18

19 (1) focus on sustainable methods and guidance
20 to build relationships, including with such innovative
21 and emerging technology developers and firms in geographic areas in the United States with high concentrations of such innovative and emerging technology
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25

1 nology developers and firms, and in geographic areas
2 outside such areas, to establish, develop, and en-
3 hance departmental capabilities to address homeland
4 security needs;

5 (2) include efforts to—

6 (A) ensure proven innovative and emerging
7 technologies can be included in existing and fu-
8 ture acquisition contracts;

9 (B) coordinate with organizations that pro-
10 vide venture capital to businesses, particularly
11 small businesses and startup ventures, as ap-
12 propriate, to assist the commercialization of in-
13 novative and emerging technologies that are ex-
14 pected to be ready for commercialization in the
15 near term and within 36 months; and

16 (C) address barriers to the utilization of
17 innovative and emerging technologies and the
18 engagement of small businesses and startup
19 ventures in the acquisition process;

20 (3) include a description of how the Depart-
21 ment plans to leverage proven innovative and emerg-
22 ing technologies to address homeland security needs;
23 and

1 (4) include the criteria the Secretary plans to
2 use to determine an innovation or technology is
3 proven.

4 (c) PROHIBITION ON ADDITIONAL FUNDING.—No
5 additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to
6 carry out this Act.

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