

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 500

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for Health Affairs responsible for coordinating the efforts of the Department of Homeland Security related to food, agriculture, and veterinary defense against terrorism, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 2, 2017

Mr. ROBERTS (for himself and Mrs. MCCASKILL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for Health Affairs responsible for coordinating the efforts of the Department of Homeland Security related to food, agriculture, and veterinary defense against terrorism, 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 “Securing our Agri-  
5 culture and Food Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. COORDINATION OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, AND VET-**  
2 **ERINARY DEFENSE AGAINST TERRORISM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the Homeland Security  
4 Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after section 527 (6  
5 U.S.C. 321p) the following:

6 **“SEC. 528. COORDINATION OF DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND**  
7 **SECURITY EFFORTS RELATED TO FOOD, AG-**  
8 **RICULTURE, AND VETERINARY DEFENSE**  
9 **AGAINST TERRORISM.**

10 “(a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—The Secretary, acting  
11 through the Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs, shall  
12 carry out a program to coordinate the efforts of the De-  
13 partment relating to defending the food, agriculture, and  
14 veterinary systems of the United States against terrorism  
15 and other high-consequence events that pose a high risk  
16 to homeland security.

17 “(b) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—The coordination pro-  
18 gram required by subsection (a) shall include, at a min-  
19 imum, the following:

20 “(1) Providing oversight and management of  
21 the responsibilities of the Department under Home-  
22 land Security Presidential Directive 9—Defense of  
23 United States Agriculture and Food.

24 “(2) Providing oversight and integration of the  
25 activities of the Department relating to veterinary

1 public health, food defense, and agricultural secu-  
2 rity.

3 “(3) Leading the policy initiatives of the De-  
4 partment relating to food, animal, and agricultural  
5 incidents, and the impact of such incidents on ani-  
6 mal and public health.

7 “(4) Leading the policy initiatives of the De-  
8 partment relating to overall domestic preparedness  
9 for and collective response to agricultural terrorism.

10 “(5) Coordinating with other components of the  
11 Department, including U.S. Customs and Border  
12 Protection, as appropriate, on activities relating to  
13 food and agriculture security and screening proce-  
14 dures for domestic and imported products.

15 “(6) Coordinating with appropriate Federal de-  
16 partments and agencies.

17 “(7) Other activities as determined necessary  
18 by the Secretary.

19 “(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
20 tion shall be construed to alter or supersede the authority  
21 of the Secretary of Agriculture relating to food and agri-  
22 culture.”.

23 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
24 in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is  
25 amended—

1           (1) by striking the items relating to sections  
2           523, 524, 525, 526, and 527; and

3           (2) by inserting after the item relating to sec-  
4           tion 522 the following:

“Sec. 523. Guidance and recommendations.

“Sec. 524. Voluntary private sector preparedness accreditation and certification  
program.

“Sec. 525. Acceptance of gifts.

“Sec. 526. Integrated public alert and warning system modernization.

“Sec. 527. National planning and education.

“Sec. 528. Coordination of Department of Homeland Security efforts related to  
food, agriculture, and veterinary defense against terrorism.”.

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