

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 141

To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit a study on the circumstances which may impact the effectiveness and availability of first responders before, during, or after a terrorist threat or event, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 4, 2021

Ms. JACKSON LEE 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 require the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit a study on the circumstances which may impact the effectiveness and availability of first responders before, during, or after a terrorist threat or event, 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 “First Responder Iden-
5 tification of Emergency Needs in Disaster Situations” or
6 the “FRIENDS Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH MAY IMPACT FIRST RE-**
2 **SPONDERS DURING A TERRORIST EVENT.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the
4 date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
5 of the United States shall submit to the Committees on
6 Homeland Security and Transportation and Infrastruc-
7 ture of the House of Representatives and the Committee
8 on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the
9 Senate a report that describes select State and local pro-
10 grams and policies, as appropriate, related to the pre-
11 paredness and protection of first responders. The report
12 may include information on—

13 (1) the degree to which such programs and poli-
14 cies include consideration of the presence of a first
15 responder’s family in an area impacted by a terrorist
16 attack;

17 (2) the availability of personal protective equip-
18 ment for first responders;

19 (3) the availability of home Medkits for first re-
20 sponders and their families for biological incident re-
21 sponse; and

22 (4) other related factors.

23 (b) CONTEXT.—In preparing the report required
24 under subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the
25 United States may, as appropriate, provide information—

1 (1) in a format that delineates high risk urban
2 areas from rural communities; and

3 (2) on the degree to which the selected State
4 and local programs and policies included in such re-
5 port were developed or are being executed with fund-
6 ing from the Department of Homeland Security, in-
7 cluding grant funding from the State Homeland Se-
8 curity Grant Program or the Urban Area Security
9 Initiative under sections 2002 and 2003, respec-
10 tively, of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6
11 U.S.C. 603 and 604).

12 (c) **HOMELAND SECURITY CONSIDERATION.**—After
13 issuance of the report required under subsection (a), the
14 Secretary of Homeland Security shall consider such re-
15 port’s findings and assess its applicability for Federal first
16 responders.

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