

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1539

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to develop and make available guidance relating to domestic preparedness for and collective response to terrorism regarding active shooter and mass casualty incident response assistance, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 3, 2021

Mr. AGUILAR (for himself, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. PAYNE, Miss RICE of New York, Mrs. LURIA, Mr. CORREA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. LIEU, Mr. PANETTA, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. KILMER, Mr. RYAN, Mr. CARSON, Mr. COOPER, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. KAHELE, and Ms. MENG) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

A BILL

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to develop and make available guidance relating to domestic preparedness for and collective response to terrorism regarding active shooter and mass casualty incident response assistance, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Providing Rational Op-
3 tions Toward the Elimination of Catastrophic Terrorism
4 Act of 2021” or the “PROTECT Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. ACTIVE SHOOTER AND MASS CASUALTY INCIDENT**
6 **RESPONSE ASSISTANCE.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle H of title VIII of the
8 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 451 et seq.)
9 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:
10 **“SEC. 890B. ACTIVE SHOOTER AND MASS CASUALTY INCI-**
11 **DENT RESPONSE ASSISTANCE.**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation
13 with the Attorney General and the heads of other Federal
14 agencies as appropriate, shall develop and make available
15 to State, local, tribal, territorial, private sector, and non-
16 governmental partners guidance relating to domestic pre-
17 paredness for and collective response to terrorism in order
18 to assist in the development of emergency action and re-
19 sponse plans for active shooter and mass casualty inci-
20 dents in public and private locations, including facilities
21 that have been identified by the Department as potentially
22 vulnerable targets.

23 “(b) GUIDANCE DESCRIBED.—Guidance developed
24 and provided pursuant to subsection (a) may relate to the
25 development of the following:

1 “(1) A strategy for properly responding to an
2 active shooter or mass casualty incident in a public
3 or private location, including training, evacuating,
4 and providing care to persons in such location, with
5 consideration given to the needs of persons with dis-
6 abilities.

7 “(2) A plan for establishing a unified command,
8 including identification of casualty collection points
9 and staging areas for law enforcement, fire response,
10 and medical personnel.

11 “(3) A schedule for regular testing of equip-
12 ment used to receive communications during such an
13 incident.

14 “(4) A practiced method and plan to commu-
15 nicate with occupants of such location during such
16 an incident.

17 “(5) A practiced method and plan to commu-
18 nicate with the surrounding community regarding
19 such an incident and the needs of Federal, State,
20 and local officials.

21 “(6) A plan for coordinating with volunteer or-
22 ganizations to expedite assistance for victims.

23 “(7) A schedule for joint exercises and training.

1 “(8) A plan for outreach to facilities that have
2 been identified by the Department as potentially vul-
3 nerable targets.

4 “(9) Other planning documents, as determined
5 by the Secretary, including appropriate regionally fo-
6 cused products, plans, training, and outreach.”.

7 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
8 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by in-
9 serting after the item relating to section 890A the fol-
10 lowing new item:

 “Sec. 890B. Active shooter and mass casualty incident response assistance.”.

11 **SEC. 3. CONSIDERATION OF ACTIVE SHOOTER THREATS.**

12 Subsection (b) of section 2007 of the Homeland Se-
13 curity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 608) is amended—

14 (1) by redesignating paragraph (9) as para-
15 graph (10); and

16 (2) by inserting after paragraph (8) the fol-
17 lowing new paragraph:

18 “(9) Active shooters.”.

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