

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 4305

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## AN ACT

To improve the effectiveness of body armor issued to female agents and officers of the Department of Homeland Security, 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 “DHS Better Ballistic  
3 Body Armor Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (a) **BALLISTIC RESISTANT BODY ARMOR.**—The term  
7 “ballistic resistant body armor” means torso ballistic pro-  
8 tection containing either soft ballistic panels, hard ballistic  
9 panels, or a combination of both, contained within a car-  
10 rier, which may be concealable for wear under a uniform  
11 shirt or external for wear over a uniform shirt, and holds  
12 panels and plates in position on the torso.

13 (b) **DEPARTMENT.**—The term “Department” means  
14 the Department of Homeland Security.

15 (c) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the  
16 Secretary of Homeland Security.

17 **SEC. 3. PROCUREMENT OF BALLISTIC RESISTANT BODY**  
18 **ARMOR TO ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF**  
19 **THE DEPARTMENT’S FEMALE AGENTS AND**  
20 **OFFICERS.**

21 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall require com-  
22 ponents of the Department, when procuring ballistic re-  
23 sistant body armor for agents and officers, to procure bal-  
24 listic resistant body armor that—

25 (1) is specifically designed to fully protect the  
26 body shapes of agents and officers;

1           (2) is made to conform to the individual wearer  
2           and provide the best possible fit and coverage to  
3           allow for either a flat or shaped front panel;

4           (3) is assessed and verified, upon delivery, to fit  
5           properly and have sufficient coverage in accordance  
6           with American Society for Testing and Materials  
7           (ASTM International) standards for fit;

8           (4) has enhanced and advanced fit and tech-  
9           nology that stops a bullet from redirecting off the  
10          chest at an upward angle into the throat region or  
11          the spinal cord area; and

12          (5) is certified by the National Institute of Jus-  
13          tice (referred to in this paragraph as “NIJ”), pursu-  
14          ant to the NIJ standard for ballistic resistant body  
15          armor, and listed on the associated NIJ Compliant  
16          Products List as successfully passing the ballistic re-  
17          sistant body armor standards in accordance with the  
18          applicable ballistic protection level recommended by  
19          the NIJ, including passing testing that uses, for  
20          each test sample—

21                (A) ballistic testing on clay or gelatin  
22                molds to ensure better contact of nonplanar  
23                panels with clay or gelatin molds, as required  
24                by the body shapes of agents and officers;

1 (B) soft body armor front panels contained  
2 in soft carriers on female-shaped clay or gelatin  
3 molds designed to fill the space behind the  
4 panel;

5 (C) shots to be placed on shaping features;

6 (D) angled shots;

7 (E) an angled shot at the chest to address  
8 the concern of a bullet skipping into the neck-  
9 line; and

10 (F) any additional testing criteria rec-  
11 ommended by the NIJ after the date of the en-  
12 actment of this Act.

13 (b) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

14 (1) ISSUANCE OF BALLISTIC RESISTANT BODY  
15 ARMOR.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the  
16 enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for  
17 the following 2 years, the head of each relevant com-  
18 ponent agency of the Department shall submit a re-  
19 port to the Secretary regarding the ballistic resistant  
20 body armor issued to female agents and officers of  
21 such component agency, including, with respect to  
22 the reporting period—

23 (A) the number of female agents and offi-  
24 cers to whom ballistic resistant body armor was  
25 issued for performance of their official duties;

1 (B) the number of ballistic resistant body  
2 armor units issued to female agents and offi-  
3 cers, the use of which was discontinued due to  
4 noncompliance with the requirements described  
5 in subsection (a);

6 (C) the number of ballistic resistant body  
7 armor units issued to female agents and officers  
8 that are compliant with the requirements de-  
9 scribed in subsection (a); and

10 (D) the percentage of female agents and  
11 officers of such component agency who, as of  
12 the last day of the reporting period, have been  
13 issued ballistic resistant body armor that com-  
14 plies with the requirements described in sub-  
15 section (a), disaggregated by duty station.

16 (2) AGGREGATE REPORT.—Not later than 30  
17 days after receiving all of the reports required to be  
18 submitted under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall  
19 submit a report that aggregates all of the data con-  
20 tained in such reports to the Committee on Home-  
21 land Security and Governmental Affairs of the Sen-  
22 ate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the  
23 House of Representatives.

1 **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2       Not later than 3 years after the date of the enact-  
3 ment of this Act, all agents and officers of any component  
4 of the Department whose duties require body armor shall  
5 have been issued body armor that meets the requirements  
6 described in section 3(a).

Passed the Senate December 2, 2024.

Attest:

*Secretary.*



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