

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4737

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security to research and evaluate existing Federal research regarding approaches to mitigate climate change on homeland security to identify areas for further research within the Department, research and develop approaches to mitigate the consequences of climate change on homeland security, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 18, 2019

Ms. CLARKE of New York (for herself and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

A BILL

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security to research and evaluate existing Federal research regarding approaches to mitigate climate change on homeland security to identify areas for further research within the Department, research and develop approaches to mitigate the consequences of climate change on 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 “Department of Home-
3 land Security Climate Change Research Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. CLIMATE CHANGE PLANNING, RESEARCH AND DE-**
5 **VELOPMENT, AND PROTECTION AND PRE-**
6 **PAREDNESS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Homeland Secu-
8 rity Act of 2002 is amended by adding at the end the fol-
9 lowing new section:

10 **“SEC. 321. CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH AND DEVELOP-**
11 **MENT.**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary for Science
13 and Technology shall—

14 “(1) research and evaluate existing Federal re-
15 search regarding approaches to mitigate the con-
16 sequence of climate change on homeland security to
17 identify areas for additional research and develop-
18 ment pursuant to paragraph (2) with respect to—

19 “(A) any connection between climate
20 change and homeland security, including how
21 the resulting competition for resources, eco-
22 nomic distress, and social discontent has con-
23 tributed to, among other outcomes, acts of ter-
24 rorism;

25 “(B) the degree to which climate change is
26 reflected in terrorism preparedness and emer-

1 agency planning and policies, including with re-
2 spect to preparedness, response to, and recovery
3 from natural disasters; and

4 “(C) the degree to which the Federal fund-
5 ing structure to respond to major disaster dec-
6 larations and emergency declarations is ade-
7 quately structured to meet the demands of re-
8 sponding to and recovering from acts of ter-
9 rorism and natural disasters that are aggra-
10 vated by climate change; and

11 “(2) shall conduct research and development on
12 approaches to mitigate the consequences of climate
13 change on homeland security in response to finding
14 pursuant to paragraph (1).

15 “(b) SCOPE.—The scope of the research and develop-
16 ment under subsection (a)(2) shall include the following:

17 “(1) Any connection between climate change
18 and homeland security, including how the resulting
19 competition for resources, economic distress, and so-
20 cial discontent can contribute to, among other out-
21 comes, acts of terrorism.

22 “(2) The degree to which climate change is re-
23 flected in terrorism preparedness and emergency
24 planning and policies, including with respect to pre-

1 paredness, response to, and recovery from natural
2 disasters.

3 “(3) The degree to which the Federal funding
4 structure to respond to major disaster declarations
5 and emergency declarations is adequately structured
6 to meet the demands of responding to and recover-
7 ing from acts of terrorism and natural disasters
8 that are aggravated by climate change.

9 “(c) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this section,
10 the Under Secretary for Science and Technology shall con-
11 sult with the heads of other relevant agencies and depart-
12 ments of the Federal Government, first responders, and
13 relevant owners and operators of critical infrastructure.

14 “(d) CLIMATE CHANGE DEFINED.—The term ‘cli-
15 mate change’ refers to detectable changes in one or more
16 climate system components that is directly or indirectly
17 attributed to—

18 “(1) human activity; and

19 “(2) altering the composition of the global at-
20 mosphere.

21 “(e) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—On an annual basis,
22 the Under Secretary for Science and Technology shall sub-
23 mit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House
24 of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Secu-
25 rity and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on

1 research and development activities under subsection (a),
2 including completed and ongoing research projects.”.

3 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
4 in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is
5 amended by inserting after the item relating to section
6 320 the following new item:

“Sec. 321. Climate change research and development.”.

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