

Union Calendar No. 260

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6174

[Report No. 118-321]

To improve the biodetection functions of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 2, 2023

Mr. STRONG (for himself, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, and Mr. SWALWELL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

DECEMBER 19, 2023

Additional sponsor: Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana

DECEMBER 19, 2023

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

A BILL

To improve the biodetection functions 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “DHS Biodetection Im-
5 provement Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DHS UTILIZATION OF DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NA-**
7 **TIONAL LABORATORIES AND SITES FOR CER-**
8 **TAIN BIODETECTION RESEARCH AND DEVEL-**
9 **OPMENT RELATING TO THE MISSIONS OF**
10 **THE DHS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Secu-
12 rity shall conduct an assessment of how the Department
13 of Homeland Security has utilized Department of Energy
14 national laboratories and sites regarding research and de-
15 velopment in carrying out the missions of the Department
16 of Homeland Security, in accordance with section 309 of
17 the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 189).

18 (b) STRATEGY ON BIODETECTION RESEARCH AND
19 DEVELOPMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
20 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland
21 Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Se-
22 curity of the House of Representatives and the Committee
23 on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the
24 Senate the assessment required under subsection (a), to-
25 gether with a strategy for how the Department of Home-

1 land Security will conduct research and development in co-
2 ordination with Department of Energy national labora-
3 tories and sites to address biodetection research and devel-
4 opment of the Department of Homeland Security, includ-
5 ing the following:

6 (1) Identifying biodetection technologies that
7 can, either individually or together, meet the bio-
8 detection mission needs as outlined in Department
9 of Homeland Security capabilities analysis and re-
10 quirements documents and informed by studies pro-
11 duced by the Comptroller General of the United
12 States, such as the National Re-Assessment of the
13 BioWatch Collector Network to Increase the Frac-
14 tion of Population Covered, as developed by the
15 Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office of
16 the Department in November 2021, and other such
17 future studies as applicable.

18 (2) Developing an acquisition and procurement
19 plan to acquire and provide, in accordance with Fed-
20 eral law, the Federal Acquisition Regulation, and
21 Department of Homeland Security acquisition and
22 procurement management directives, the biodetection
23 technologies referred to in paragraph (1) to existing
24 BioWatch jurisdictions.

1 (3) Conducting periodic external evaluations to
2 identify gaps and potential failure points with re-
3 spect to such biodetection technologies, and recom-
4 mending contingency plans in the event such bio-
5 detection technologies do not perform as expected or
6 intended.

7 (4) Assisting, as appropriate and in partnership
8 with Federal, State, local, and Tribal governments,
9 institutions of higher education (as such term is de-
10 fined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of
11 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)), and the private sector, with
12 the development of clearly defined program and
13 technical requirements for future Department of
14 Homeland Security environmental biodetection pro-
15 grams, including any related transformational pro-
16 gram of research and development.

17 (c) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than one
18 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
19 retary of Homeland Security shall provide to the Com-
20 mittee on Homeland Security of the House of Representa-
21 tives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Gov-
22 ernmental Affairs of the Senate an update of the assess-
23 ment and strategy required under this section, including
24 any challenges to implementing such strategy.

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