

Calendar No. 552

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R. 6174**

**[Report No. 118-239]**

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 8, 2024

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and  
Governmental Affairs

NOVEMBER 12, 2024

Reported by Mr. PETERS, without amendment

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**AN ACT**

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”.

1 **SEC. 2. DHS UTILIZATION OF DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY NA-**  
2 **TIONAL LABORATORIES AND SITES FOR CER-**  
3 **TAIN BIODETECTION RESEARCH AND DEVEL-**  
4 **OPMENT RELATING TO THE MISSIONS OF**  
5 **THE DHS.**

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

13 (b) STRATEGY ON BIODETECTION RESEARCH AND  
14 DEVELOPMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
15 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland  
16 Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Se-  
17 curity of the House of Representatives and the Committee  
18 on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the  
19 Senate the assessment required under subsection (a), to-  
20 gether with a strategy for how the Department of Home-  
21 land Security will conduct research and development in co-  
22 ordination with Department of Energy national labora-  
23 tories and sites to address biodetection research and devel-  
24 opment of the Department of Homeland Security, includ-  
25 ing the following:

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

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

20          (3) Conducting periodic external evaluations to  
21          identify gaps and potential failure points with re-  
22          spect to such biodetection technologies, and recom-  
23          mending contingency plans in the event such bio-  
24          detection technologies do not perform as expected or  
25          intended.

1           (4) Assisting, as appropriate and in partnership  
2           with Federal, State, local, and Tribal governments,  
3           institutions of higher education (as such term is de-  
4           fined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of  
5           1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)), and the private sector, with  
6           the development of clearly defined program and  
7           technical requirements for future Department of  
8           Homeland Security environmental biodetection pro-  
9           grams, including any related transformational pro-  
10          gram of research and development.

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



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