

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6596

To realign the nuclear forensics and attribution activities of the Federal Government from the Department of Homeland Security to the National Nuclear Security Administration.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 22, 2020

Mr. FOSTER (for himself and Mr. FORTENBERRY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, Homeland Security, and Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To realign the nuclear forensics and attribution activities of the Federal Government from the Department of Homeland Security to the National Nuclear Security Administration.

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. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL NUCLEAR**  
4 **FORENSICS CENTER.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The National Nuclear Secu-  
2           rity Administration Act (50 U.S.C. 2401 et seq.) is  
3           amended by inserting after section 3221 the fol-  
4           lowing new section:

5   **“SEC. 3222. NATIONAL NUCLEAR FORENSICS CENTER.**

6           “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is within the Admin-  
7           istration a National Nuclear Forensics Center (in this sec-  
8           tion referred to as the ‘Center’).

9           “(b) MISSION.—The mission of the Center shall be  
10          to coordinate stewardship, planning, assessment, gap anal-  
11          ysis, exercises, improvement, including operational im-  
12          provements and research, development, testing, and eval-  
13          uation, and integration for all Federal nuclear forensics  
14          and attribution activities to ensure an enduring national  
15          technical nuclear forensics capability to strengthen the col-  
16          lective response of the United States to nuclear terrorism  
17          or other nuclear attacks.”.

18           (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of con-  
19          tents at the beginning of such Act is amended by in-  
20          serting after the item relating to section 3221 the  
21          following new item:

“Sec. 3222. National Nuclear Forensics Center.”.

22           (3) NUCLEAR FORENSICS EXPERTISE.—Not  
23          later than one year after the date of the enactment  
24          of this Act, the Administrator for Nuclear Security  
25          shall develop and implement a plan to modify the

1 university program of the National Nuclear Security  
2 Administration established under section 4814 of the  
3 Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2795) to in-  
4 clude the development of expertise in nuclear  
5 forensics in supporting scientific and engineering ad-  
6 vancement in key Department of Energy defense  
7 and national security program areas.

8 (b) CONFORMING REPEALS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Nuclear Forensics and  
10 Attribution Act (Public Law 111–140) is hereby re-  
11 pealed.

12 (2) HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002.—Title  
13 XIX of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6  
14 U.S.C. 590 et seq.) is amended as follows:

15 (A) In section 1923—

16 (i) in subsection (a)—

17 (I) by striking “(a) MISSION.—”;

18 (II) in paragraph (9), by striking  
19 the semicolon and inserting “; and”;

20 (III) by striking paragraphs (10),  
21 (11), (12), and (13); and

22 (IV) by redesignating paragraph  
23 (14) as paragraph (10); and

24 (ii) by striking subsection (b).

1 (B) In section 1927(a)(1) (6 U.S.C.  
2 596a(a)(1))—

3 (i) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by strik-  
4 ing the semicolon and inserting “; and”;

5 (ii) in subparagraph (B)(iii), by strik-  
6 ing “; and” and inserting a period; and

7 (iii) by striking subparagraph (C).

8 (c) REFERENCES AND CONSTRUCTION.—Any ref-  
9 erence in any law, regulation, document, paper, or other  
10 record of the United States to the National Technical Nu-  
11 clear Forensics Center established within the Countering  
12 Weapons of Mass Destruction Office of the Department  
13 of Homeland Security, formerly the Domestic Nuclear De-  
14 tection Office, shall be deemed to be a reference to the  
15 National Nuclear Forensics Center established by section  
16 3222 of the National Nuclear Security Administration  
17 Act, as added by subsection (a).

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