

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4970

To improve the effectiveness of body armor issued to female law enforcement agents and officers of the Federal Government, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 1, 2024

Mr. OSSOFF (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To improve the effectiveness of body armor issued to female law enforcement agents and officers of the Federal Government, 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 “Female Officers Bal-
5 listic Protection Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINED TERM.**

7 In this Act, the term “ballistic resistant body armor”
8 means torso ballistic protection containing soft ballistic
9 panels, hard ballistic panels, or a combination of both,
10 contained within a carrier, which may be concealable for

1 wear under a uniform shirt or external for wear over a
2 uniform shirt, and holds panels and plates in position on
3 the torso.

4 **SEC. 3. PROCUREMENT OF BALLISTIC RESISTANT BODY**
5 **ARMOR TO ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF FE-**
6 **MALE AGENTS AND OFFICERS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Every Federal department or
8 agency that employs law enforcement agents or officers,
9 when procuring ballistic resistant body armor for individ-
10 uals whose body shapes are most closely associated with
11 female agents and officers, shall procure ballistic resistant
12 body armor that—

13 (1) is specifically designed to fully protect body
14 shapes most closely associated with female agents
15 and officers;

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

19 (3) is assessed and verified, upon delivery, to fit
20 properly and have sufficient coverage in accordance
21 with American Society for Testing and Materials
22 (ASTM International) standards for fit;

23 (4) has enhanced and advanced fit and tech-
24 nology that stops a bullet from skipping off the

1 chest at an upward angle into the throat region or
2 the spinal cord area; and

3 (5) is certified by the National Institute of Jus-
4 tice (referred to in this paragraph as “NIJ”), pursu-
5 ant to the NIJ standard for ballistic resistant body
6 armor, and listed on the associated NIJ Compliant
7 Products List as successfully passing the ballistic re-
8 sistant body armor standards in accordance with the
9 applicable ballistic protection level recommended by
10 the NIJ, including passing testing that uses—

11 (A) ballistic testing on gender-specific clay
12 or gelatin molds to ensure better contact of
13 nonplanar panels with clay or gelatin molds;

14 (B) soft body armor front panels contained
15 in soft carriers on female-shaped clay or gelatin
16 molds designed to fill the space behind the
17 panel;

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

19 (D) angled shots; and

20 (E) an angled shot at the chest that tests
21 the concerns of bullet skipping into the neckline
22 of each test sample to address the concern of a
23 bullet skipping.

24 (b) CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—In addition to
25 the requirements under subsection (a), the head of any

1 Federal agency, before procuring ballistic resistant body
2 armor pursuant to such subsection, shall submit a request
3 to the Criminal Justice Technology Testing and Evalua-
4 tion Center of the National Institute of Justice to certify
5 that the body armor to be purchased complies with the
6 standards described in subsection (a).

7 (c) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

8 (1) ISSUANCE OF BALLISTIC RESISTANT BODY
9 ARMOR.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the
10 enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for
11 the following 2 years, the head of each Federal de-
12 partment or agency that employs law enforcement
13 agents or officers shall submit a report to the Attor-
14 ney General regarding the ballistic resistant body
15 armor issued to female agents and officers, includ-
16 ing, with respect to the reporting period—

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

20 (B) the number of ballistic resistant body
21 armor units the use of which was discontinued
22 due to noncompliance with the requirements de-
23 scribed in subsection (a);

24 (C) the number of ballistic resistant body
25 armor units issued to female agents and officers

1 that are compliant with the requirements de-
2 scribed in subsection (a); and

3 (D) the percentage of female agents and
4 officers of such component agency who, as of
5 the last day of the reporting period, have been
6 issued and are regularly using ballistic resistant
7 body armor that complies with the requirements
8 described in subsection (a), disaggregated by
9 duty station.

10 (2) AGGREGATE REPORT.—Not later than 30
11 days after receiving all of the reports required to be
12 submitted under paragraph (1) for a given period,
13 the Attorney General shall submit a report that ag-
14 gregates all of the data contained in such reports to
15 the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and
16 the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of
17 Representatives.

18 **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

19 Not later than 3 years after the date of the enact-
20 ment of this Act, all agents and officers of any Federal
21 department or agency that employs law enforcement
22 agents or officers who have a body shape most closely as-
23 sociated with female agents and officers shall have been

- 1 issued body armor that meets the requirements described
- 2 in section 3(a).

