

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2609

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the Acquisition Review Board in the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 9, 2019

Mr. CRENSHAW introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

A BILL

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the Acquisition Review Board in 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 Acquisition Re-
5 view Board Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. ACQUISITION REVIEW BOARD.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle D of title VIII of the
8 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 391 et seq.)
9 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

1 **“SEC. 836. ACQUISITION REVIEW BOARD.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish an
3 Acquisition Review Board (in this section referred to as
4 the ‘Board’) to—

5 “(1) strengthen accountability and uniformity
6 within the Department acquisition review process;

7 “(2) review major acquisition programs; and

8 “(3) review the use of best practices.

9 “(b) COMPOSITION.—

10 “(1) CHAIR.—The Under Secretary for Man-
11 agement shall serve as chair of the Board.

12 “(2) PARTICIPATION.— The Secretary shall en-
13 sure participation by other relevant Department offi-
14 cials with responsibilities related to acquisitions as
15 permanent members of the Board.

16 “(3) OVERSIGHT.—The Under Secretary for
17 Management shall designate a full time employee of
18 the Department to oversee the operations of the
19 Board.

20 “(c) MEETINGS.—The Board shall meet regularly for
21 purposes of ensuring all acquisitions processes proceed in
22 a timely fashion to achieve mission readiness. The Board
23 shall convene at the Secretary’s discretion and at any
24 time—

25 “(1) a major acquisition program—

1 “(A) requires authorization to proceed
2 from one acquisition decision event to another
3 throughout the acquisition life cycle;

4 “(B) is in breach of its approved require-
5 ments; or

6 “(C) requires additional review, as deter-
7 mined by the Under Secretary for Management;
8 or

9 “(2) a non-major acquisition program requires
10 review, as determined by the Under Secretary for
11 Management.

12 “(d) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The responsibilities of the
13 Board are as follows:

14 “(1) Determine whether a proposed acquisition
15 has met the requirements of key phases of the acqui-
16 sition life cycle framework and is able to proceed to
17 the next phase and eventual full production and de-
18 ployment.

19 “(2) Oversee whether a proposed acquisition’s
20 business strategy, resources, management, and ac-
21 countability is executable and is aligned to strategic
22 initiatives.

23 “(3) Support the person with acquisition deci-
24 sion authority for an acquisition in determining the

1 appropriate direction for such acquisition at key ac-
2 quisition decision events.

3 “(4) Conduct systematic reviews of acquisitions
4 to ensure that such acquisitions are progressing in
5 compliance with the approved documents for their
6 current acquisition phases.

7 “(5) Review the acquisition documents of each
8 major acquisition program, including the acquisition
9 program baseline and documentation reflecting con-
10 sideration of tradeoffs among cost, schedule, and
11 performance objectives, to ensure the reliability of
12 underlying data.

13 “(6) Ensure that practices are adopted and im-
14 plemented to require consideration of trade-offs
15 among cost, schedule, and performance objectives as
16 part of the process for developing requirements for
17 major acquisition programs prior to the initiation of
18 the second acquisition decision event, including, at a
19 minimum, the following practices:

20 “(A) Department officials responsible for
21 acquisition, budget, and cost estimating func-
22 tions are provided with the appropriate oppor-
23 tunity to develop estimates and raise cost and
24 schedule matters before performance objectives
25 are established for capabilities when feasible.

1 “(B) Full consideration is given to possible
2 trade-offs among cost, schedule, and perform-
3 ance objectives for each alternative.

4 “(e) ACQUISITION PROGRAM BASELINE REPORT RE-
5 QUIREMENT.—If the person exercising acquisition decision
6 authority over a major acquisition program approves such
7 program to proceed into the planning phase before such
8 program has a Department-approved acquisition program
9 baseline, the Under Secretary for Management shall cre-
10 ate and approve an acquisition program baseline report
11 regarding such approval, and the Secretary shall—

12 “(1) within 7 days after an acquisition decision
13 memorandum is signed, notify in writing the Com-
14 mittee on Homeland Security of the House of Rep-
15 resentatives and the Committee on Homeland Secu-
16 rity and Governmental Affairs of the Senate of such
17 decision; and

18 “(2) within 60 days after the acquisition deci-
19 sion memorandum is signed, submit to such commit-
20 tees a written explanation of the rationale for such
21 decision and a plan of action to address acquisition
22 program baseline requirements for such program.

23 “(f) REPORT.—The Under Secretary for Manage-
24 ment shall provide information to the Committee on
25 Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and

1 the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental
2 Affairs of the Senate on an annual basis through fiscal
3 year 2024 on the activities of the Board for the prior fiscal
4 year that includes information relating to the following:

5 “(1) For each meeting of the Board, any acqui-
6 sition decision memoranda.

7 “(2) Results of the systematic reviews con-
8 ducted pursuant to paragraph (4) of subsection (d).

9 “(3) Results of acquisition document reviews re-
10 quired pursuant to paragraph (5) of subsection (d).

11 “(4) Activities to ensure that practices are
12 adopted and implemented throughout the Depart-
13 ment pursuant to paragraph (6) of subsection (d).

14 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15 “(1) ACQUISITION.—The term ‘acquisition’ has
16 the meaning given such term in section 131 of title
17 41, United States Code.

18 “(2) ACQUISITION DECISION AUTHORITY.—The
19 term ‘acquisition decision authority’ means the au-
20 thority, held by the Secretary acting through the
21 Deputy Secretary or Under Secretary for Manage-
22 ment to—

23 “(A) ensure compliance with Federal law,
24 the Federal Acquisition Regulation, and De-
25 partment acquisition management directives;

1 “(B) review (including approving, pausing,
2 modifying, or cancelling) an acquisition pro-
3 gram through the life cycle of such program;

4 “(C) ensure that acquisition program man-
5 agers have the resources necessary to success-
6 fully execute an approved acquisition program;

7 “(D) ensure good acquisition program
8 management of cost, schedule, risk, and system
9 performance of the acquisition program at
10 issue, including assessing acquisition program
11 baseline breaches and directing any corrective
12 action for such breaches; and

13 “(E) ensure that acquisition program man-
14 agers, on an ongoing basis, monitor cost, sched-
15 ule, and performance against established base-
16 lines and use tools to assess risks to an acquisi-
17 tion program at all phases of the life cycle of
18 such program to avoid and mitigate acquisition
19 program baseline breaches.

20 “(3) ACQUISITION DECISION EVENT.—The term
21 ‘acquisition decision event’, with respect to an acqui-
22 sition program, means a predetermined point within
23 each of the acquisition phases at which the acquisi-
24 tion decision authority determines whether such ac-

1 quisition program shall proceed to the next acquisi-
2 tion phase.

3 “(4) ACQUISITION DECISION MEMORANDUM.—
4 The term ‘acquisition decision memorandum’, with
5 respect to an acquisition, means the official acquisi-
6 tion decision event record that includes a docu-
7 mented record of decisions, exit criteria, and as-
8 signed actions for such acquisition, as determined by
9 the person exercising acquisition decision authority
10 for such acquisition.

11 “(5) ACQUISITION PROGRAM.—The term ‘acqui-
12 sition program’ means the process by which the De-
13 partment acquires, with any appropriated amounts,
14 by contract for purchase or lease, property or serv-
15 ices (including construction) that support the mis-
16 sions and goals of the Department.

17 “(6) ACQUISITION PROGRAM BASELINE.—The
18 term ‘acquisition program baseline’, with respect to
19 an acquisition program, means a summary of the
20 cost, schedule, and performance parameters, ex-
21 pressed in standard, measurable, quantitative terms,
22 which must be met in order to accomplish the goals
23 of such program.

24 “(7) BEST PRACTICES.—The term ‘best prac-
25 tices’, with respect to acquisition, means a knowl-

1 edge-based approach to capability development that
2 includes—

3 “(A) identifying and validating needs;

4 “(B) assessing alternatives to select the
5 most appropriate solution;

6 “(C) clearly establishing well-defined re-
7 quirements;

8 “(D) developing realistic cost assessments
9 and schedules;

10 “(E) securing stable funding that matches
11 resources to requirements;

12 “(F) demonstrating technology, design,
13 and manufacturing maturity;

14 “(G) using milestones and exit criteria or
15 specific accomplishments that demonstrate
16 progress;

17 “(H) adopting and executing standardized
18 processes with known success across programs;

19 “(I) establishing an adequate workforce
20 that is qualified and sufficient to perform nec-
21 essary functions; and

22 “(J) integrating the capabilities described
23 in subparagraphs (A) through (I) into the De-
24 partment’s mission and business operations.

1 “(8) MAJOR ACQUISITION PROGRAM.—The term
2 ‘major acquisition program’ means a Department
3 acquisition program that is estimated by the Sec-
4 retary to require an eventual total expenditure of at
5 least \$300,000,000 (based on fiscal year 2019 con-
6 stant dollars) over its life cycle cost.”.

7 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
8 in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6
9 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item
10 relating to section 835 the following new item:

“Sec. 836. Acquisition Review Board.”.

