

111<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 5105

To establish a Chief Veterinary Officer in the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 21, 2010

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama (for himself, Ms. KILROY, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. MCCAUL, Ms. CLARKE, and Mr. CARNEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, 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 establish a Chief Veterinary Officer 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. CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER OF DEPARTMENT**  
4                               **OF HOMELAND SECURITY.**

5       (a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Homeland Secu-  
6       rity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) is amended by  
7       adding at the end the following new section:

1 **“SEC. 317. CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER.**

2       “(a) IN GENERAL.—There is in the Department a  
3 Chief Veterinary Officer, who shall be appointed by the  
4 Secretary. The Chief Veterinary Officer shall report di-  
5 rectly to the Chief Medical Officer, unless an individual  
6 other than the Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs is  
7 serving as the Chief Medical Officer, in which case the  
8 Chief Veterinary Officer shall report directly to the Assist-  
9 ant Secretary for Health Affairs.

10       “(b) QUALIFICATIONS.—The individual appointed as  
11 Chief Veterinary Officer shall be a veterinarian who pos-  
12 sesses a demonstrated ability in and knowledge of veteri-  
13 nary public health and emergency preparedness, and other  
14 professional experience as determined by the Secretary,  
15 such as in agriculture, food defense, and disaster medi-  
16 cine.

17       “(c) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Chief Veterinary Offi-  
18 cer shall be the head of the division of the Department  
19 with primary responsibility for veterinary issues, food de-  
20 fense, and agriculture security, and shall have primary re-  
21 sponsibility within the Department for responsibilities re-  
22 lating to veterinary medicine and veterinary public health,  
23 including each of the following:

24               “(1) Serving as the principal authority in the  
25 Department responsible for advising the Secretary,  
26 in coordination with the Assistant Secretary for

1 Health Affairs, on veterinary public health, food de-  
2 fense, and agricultural security issues.

3 “(2) Providing guidance for the health and wel-  
4 fare of the Department’s working animals, including  
5 those used to enhance transportation, border, and  
6 maritime security, and for other purposes.

7 “(3) Leading the Department’s policy initiatives  
8 relating to food, animal, and agricultural incidents,  
9 and the impact of such incidents on animal and pub-  
10 lic health.

11 “(4) Leading the Department’s policy initiatives  
12 relating to overall domestic preparedness for and col-  
13 lective response to agricultural terrorism.

14 “(5) Serving as the principal point of contact in  
15 the Office of Health Affairs for all veterinary pre-  
16 paredness and response research and development.

17 “(6) Serving as the principal point of contact in  
18 the Office of Health Affairs for sharing homeland  
19 security veterinary medical information with Depart-  
20 ment officials, including all components with veteri-  
21 nary, food, or agricultural interests.

22 “(7) Serving as the principal point of contact  
23 within the Department with respect to veterinary  
24 homeland security issues for the Department of Ag-  
25 riculture, the Department of Defense, the Depart-

1       ment of Health and Human Services, and other  
2       Federal departments and agencies.

3           “(8) Serving as the principal point of contact  
4       within the Department with respect to veterinary  
5       homeland security issues for State, local, and tribal  
6       governments, the veterinary community, and other  
7       entities within and outside the Department.

8           “(9) Performing such other duties relating to  
9       such responsibilities as the Secretary may require.

10       “(d) ADVANCE NOTICE OF REORGANIZATION RE-  
11       QUIRED.—Not later than 180 days before carrying out  
12       any reorganization within the Department that would af-  
13       fect any responsibility of the Chief Veterinary Officer, the  
14       Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional  
15       committees a report on the proposed reorganization.”.

16       (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
17       in section 1(b) of such Act is amended by adding at the  
18       end of the items relating to title III the following new  
19       item:

“Sec. 317. Chief Veterinary Officer.”.

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