115TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

H.R.687

AN ACT

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a process to review applications for certain grants to purchase equipment or systems that do not meet or exceed any applicable national voluntary consensus standards, and for other purposes.

- 1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
- $2\ \ tives\ of\ the\ United\ States\ of\ America\ in\ Congress\ assembled,$

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2	This Act may be cited as the "First Responder Ac-
3	cess to Innovative Technologies Act''.
4	SEC. 2. APPROVAL OF CERTAIN EQUIPMENT.
5	(a) In General.—Section 2008 of the Homeland
6	Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 609) is amended—
7	(1) in subsection (f)—
8	(A) by striking "If an applicant" and in-
9	serting the following:
10	"(1) Application requirement.—If an appli-
11	cant''; and
12	(B) by adding at the end the following new
13	paragraphs:
14	"(2) Review Process.—The Administrator
15	shall implement a uniform process for reviewing ap-
16	plications that, in accordance with paragraph (1),
17	contain explanations to use grants provided under
18	section 2003 or 2004 to purchase equipment or sys-
19	tems that do not meet or exceed any applicable na-
20	tional voluntary consensus standards developed
21	under section 647 of the Post-Katrina Emergency
22	Management Reform Act of 2006.
23	"(3) Factors.—In carrying out the review
24	process under paragraph (2), the Administrator
25	shall consider the following:

1	"(A) Current or past use of proposed
2	equipment or systems by Federal agencies or
3	the Armed Forces.
4	"(B) The absence of a national voluntary
5	consensus standard for such equipment or sys-
6	tems.
7	"(C) The existence of an international con-
8	sensus standard for such equipment or systems,
9	and whether such equipment or systems meets
10	such standard.
11	"(D) The nature of the capability gap
12	identified by the applicant and how such equip-
13	ment or systems will address such gap.
14	"(E) The degree to which such equipment
15	or systems will serve the needs of the applicant
16	better than equipment or systems that meet or
17	exceed existing consensus standards.
18	"(F) Any other factor determined appro-
19	priate by the Administrator."; and
20	(2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
21	section:
22	"(g) Review Process.—The Administrator shall
23	implement a uniform process for reviewing applications to
24	use grants provided under section 2003 or 2004 to pur-

- 1 chase equipment or systems not included on the Author-
- 2 ized Equipment List maintained by the Administrator.".
- 3 (b) Inspector General Report.—Not later than
- 4 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
- 5 Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Secu-
- 6 rity shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security
- 7 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on
- 8 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Sen-
- 9 ate a report assessing the implementation of the review
- 10 process established under paragraph (2) of subsection (f)
- 11 of section 2008 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002
- 12 (as added by subsection (a) of this section), including in-
- 13 formation on the following:
- 14 (1) The number of requests to purchase equip-
- ment or systems that do not meet or exceed any ap-
- 16 plicable consensus standard evaluated under such re-
- view process.
- 18 (2) The capability gaps identified by applicants
- and the number of such requests granted or denied.

- 1 (3) The processing time for the review of such
- 2 requests.

Passed the House of Representatives January 31, 2017.

Attest:

Clerk.

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