

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2728

To establish a Department of Homeland Security counterintelligence vetting task force, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 29, 2019

Mr. HAWLEY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To establish a Department of Homeland Security counterintelligence vetting task force, 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 “Homeland Security
5 Counterintelligence Threat Reduction Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY COUNTER-**
7 **INTELLIGENCE VETTING TASK FORCE.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
9 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
10 Homeland Security shall assign personnel of the Depart-

1 ment of Homeland Security to participate in a counter-
2 intelligence vetting task force to make recommendations
3 to improve counterintelligence vetting for appropriate de-
4 partmental programs.

5 (b) PERSONNEL.—In carrying out subsection (a), the
6 Secretary of Homeland Security may assign personnel
7 from any component of the Department of Homeland Se-
8 curity the Secretary determines necessary to participate
9 in the task force established pursuant to such subsection.

10 (c) COORDINATION.—In carrying out subsection (a),
11 the Secretary of Homeland Security may request partici-
12 pation in the task force established pursuant to such sub-
13 section from other appropriate Federal agencies.

14 (d) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date
15 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland
16 Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Se-
17 curity of the House of Representatives and the Committee
18 on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the
19 Senate a report on the recommendations made by the task
20 force established pursuant to subsection (a).

21 **SEC. 3. COUNTERINTELLIGENCE TRAINING AND VETTING.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
23 date of the enactment of this Act, in carrying out the pro-
24 gram administered pursuant to section 442(a)(4) of the
25 Homeland Security Act (6 U.S.C. 252(a)(4)), the Sec-

1 retary of Homeland Security shall develop a counterintel-
2 ligence awareness training program and require partici-
3 pation in such program from appropriate faculty, as deter-
4 mined by the Secretary in consultation with the Homeland
5 Security Academic Advisory Council (established pursuant
6 to section 871 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6
7 U.S.C. 451)), from approved institutions of higher edu-
8 cation, other approved educational institutions, and des-
9 ignated exchange visitor programs in the United States.

10 (b) PROGRAM ENHANCEMENTS.—Not later than one
11 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
12 of Homeland Security shall make the following enhance-
13 ments to the program administered pursuant to section
14 442(a)(4) of the Homeland Security Act (6 U.S.C.
15 252(a)(4)):

16 (1) Identify degrees and fields of study deter-
17 mined to be sensitive for homeland security and
18 counterintelligence purposes.

19 (2) Update the information to be collected to
20 include any changes to the degree programs, if ap-
21 plicable, and fields of study.

22 (3) Make any other enhancements determined
23 appropriate by the Secretary to improve counter-
24 intelligence vetting capabilities.

1 (c) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the identifica-
2 tion required pursuant to subsection (b)(1), the Secretary
3 of Homeland Security shall consult with the Secretary of
4 State to ensure the degrees and field of study determined
5 to be sensitive for homeland security and counterintel-
6 ligence purposes referred to in such subsection are aligned,
7 to the greatest extent practicable, between the Department
8 of Homeland Security and the Department of State.

9 (d) DEFINITIONS.—

10 (1) APPROVED INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDU-
11 CATION.—The term “approved institution of higher
12 education” has the meaning given such term in sec-
13 tion 641(h) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and
14 Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C.
15 1372).

16 (2) DESIGNATED EXCHANGE VISITOR PRO-
17 GRAM.—The term “designated exchange visitor pro-
18 gram” has the meaning given such term in section
19 641(h) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immi-
20 grant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1372).

21 (3) OTHER APPROVED EDUCATIONAL INSTITU-
22 TION.—The term “other approved educational insti-
23 tution” has the meaning given such term in section
24 641(h) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immi-
25 grant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1372).

1 **SEC. 4. HOMELAND SECURITY ACADEMIC ADVISORY COUN-**
2 **CIL.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the
4 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Home-
5 land Security shall convene a meeting of the Homeland
6 Security Academic Advisory Council to seek advice and
7 recommendations from the Council on the counterintel-
8 ligence awareness training and appropriate faculty des-
9 ignated to receive such training required under section 3.

10 (b) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than February 1,
11 2020, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall notify the
12 Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Rep-
13 resentatives and the Committee on Homeland Security
14 and Governmental Affairs of the Senate if the Secretary
15 determines to not extend the existence of the Homeland
16 Security Academic Advisory Council.

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