

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9748

To require the Under Secretary of the Science and Technology Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security to develop a Department-wide policy and process to safeguard research and development from unauthorized access to or disclosure of sensitive information in research and development acquisitions, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 23, 2024

Mr. D'ESPOSITO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

A BILL

To require the Under Secretary of the Science and Technology Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security to develop a Department-wide policy and process to safeguard research and development from unauthorized access to or disclosure of sensitive information in research and development acquisitions, 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 “Research Security and
5 Accountability in DHS Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. SAFEGUARDING SENSITIVE RESEARCH IN THE DE-**
2 **PARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 302 of the Homeland Se-
4 curity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 182) is amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (13), by striking “and” after
6 the semicolon;

7 (2) in paragraph (14), by striking the period
8 and inserting “; and”; and

9 (3) by adding at the end the following new
10 paragraph:

11 “(15) developing, in coordination with appro-
12 priate agency officials, a Department-wide policy
13 and process to safeguard research and development
14 from unauthorized access to or disclosure of sen-
15 sitive information in research and development ac-
16 quisitions.”.

17 (b) GAO REPORT.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
19 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
20 Comptroller General of the United States shall sub-
21 mit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the
22 House of Representatives and the Committee on
23 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the
24 Senate a report on how the Department has com-
25 plied with National Security Presidential Memo-
26 randum–33 (NSPM–33) and adopted the National

1 Science and Technology Council’s 2022 implementa-
2 tion guidance.

3 (2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under
4 paragraph (1) shall address the following:

5 (A) How the Department of Homeland Se-
6 curity has complied with disclosure require-
7 ments outlined in NSPM–33, and how viola-
8 tions are reported to the relevant executive
9 agencies, including in the intelligence commu-
10 nity (as such term is defined in section 3(4) of
11 the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C.
12 3003(4)).

13 (B) Coordination and compliance with
14 guidelines established by the National Science
15 Foundation, the National Science Technology
16 Council, the Office of Science and Technology
17 Policy, and other executive agencies regarding
18 Federal research security.

19 (C) The role of the Science and Tech-
20 nology Directorate of the Department regarding
21 establishing a research security framework for
22 research and development projects across the
23 Department.

24 (c) CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING.—Not later than 90
25 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-

1 retary of Homeland Security shall provide to the Com-
2 mittee on Homeland Security of the House of Representa-
3 tives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Gov-
4 ernmental Affairs of the Senate a briefing addressing the
5 development of policies and processes to safeguard De-
6 partment of Homeland Security research and development
7 in accordance with paragraph (15) of section 302 of the
8 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 182), as added
9 by subsection (a).

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