

Union Calendar No. 131

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 963

[Report No. 112-204]

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide immunity for reports of suspected terrorist activity or suspicious behavior and response.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 8, 2011

Mr. SMITH of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

SEPTEMBER 12, 2011

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

A BILL

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide immunity for reports of suspected terrorist activity or suspicious behavior and response.

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 “See Something, Say
5 Something Act of 2011”.

6 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO THE HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF**
7 **2002.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle H of title VIII of the
9 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 451 et seq.)
10 is amended by adding at the end the following:

11 **“SEC. 890A. IMMUNITY FOR REPORTS OF SUSPECTED TER-**
12 **RORIST ACTIVITY OR SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR**
13 **AND RESPONSE.**

14 “(a) IMMUNITY FOR REPORTS OF SUSPECTED TER-
15 RORIST ACTIVITY OR SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR AND RE-
16 SPONSE.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Any person who, in good
18 faith and based on objectively reasonable suspicion,
19 makes, or causes to be made, a voluntary report of
20 covered activity to an authorized official shall be im-
21 mune from civil liability under Federal, State, and
22 local law for such report.

23 “(2) FALSE REPORTS.—Paragraph (1) shall not
24 apply to any report that the person knew to be false

1 or was made with reckless disregard for the truth at
2 the time that the person made that report.

3 “(b) IMMUNITY FOR RESPONSE.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Any authorized official who
5 observes, or receives a report of, covered activity and
6 takes reasonable action in good faith to respond to
7 such activity shall have qualified immunity from civil
8 liability for such action, consistent with applicable
9 law in the relevant jurisdiction. An authorized offi-
10 cial as defined by section (d)(1)(A) not entitled to
11 assert the defense of qualified immunity shall none-
12 theless be immune from civil liability under Federal,
13 State, and local law if such authorized official takes
14 reasonable action, in good faith, to respond to the
15 reported activity.

16 “(2) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this sub-
17 section shall—

18 “(A) affect the ability of any authorized of-
19 ficial to assert any defense, privilege, or immu-
20 nity that would otherwise be available; and

21 “(B) be construed as affecting any such
22 defense, privilege, or immunity.

23 “(c) ATTORNEY FEES AND COSTS.—Any authorized
24 official or other person found to be immune from civil li-

1 ability under this section shall be entitled to recover from
2 the plaintiff all reasonable costs and attorney fees.

3 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 “(1) AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL.—The term ‘au-
5 thorized official’ means—

6 “(A) any officer, employee, or agent of the
7 Federal government with responsibility for pre-
8 venting, protecting against, disrupting, or re-
9 sponding to a ‘covered activity;’ or

10 “(B) any Federal, State, or local law en-
11 forcement officer.

12 “(2) COVERED ACTIVITY.—The term ‘covered
13 activity’ means any suspicious transaction, activity,
14 or occurrence indicating that an individual may be
15 engaging, or preparing to engage, in a violation of
16 law relating to an act of terrorism (as that term is
17 defined in section 3077 of title 18, United States
18 Code).”.

19 (b) AMENDMENT TO THE TABLE OF CONTENTS.—

20 The table of contents for the Homeland Security Act of
21 2002 is amended by inserting at the end of subtitle H
22 of title VIII the following item:

“Sec. 890A. Immunity for reports of suspected terrorist activity or suspicious
behavior and response.”.

Union Calendar No. 131

112TH CONGRESS
1ST Session

H. R. 963

[Report No. 112-204]

A BILL

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide immunity for reports of suspected terrorist activity or suspicious behavior and re-sponse.

SEPTEMBER 12, 2011

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed