

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2123

AN ACT

To establish the Federal Clearinghouse on Safety and Security Best Practices for Faith-Based Organizations and Houses of Worship, 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 “Pray Safe Act”.

3 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this Act—

5 (1) the term “Clearinghouse” means the Fed-
6 eral Clearinghouse on Safety Best Practices for
7 Faith-Based Organizations and Houses of Worship
8 established under section 2220A of the Homeland
9 Security Act of 2002, as added by section 3 of this
10 Act;

11 (2) the term “Department” means the Depart-
12 ment of Homeland Security;

13 (3) the terms “faith-based organization” and
14 “house of worship” have the meanings given such
15 terms under section 2220A of the Homeland Secu-
16 rity Act of 2002, as added by section 3 of this Act;
17 and

18 (4) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary
19 of Homeland Security.

20 **SEC. 3. FEDERAL CLEARINGHOUSE ON SAFETY AND SECU-**
21 **RITY BEST PRACTICES FOR FAITH-BASED OR-**
22 **GANIZATIONS AND HOUSES OF WORSHIP.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title XXII of the
24 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 651 et seq.),
25 as amended by section 9, is amended by adding at the
26 end the following:

1 **“SEC. 2220A. FEDERAL CLEARINGHOUSE ON SAFETY AND**
 2 **SECURITY BEST PRACTICES FOR FAITH-**
 3 **BASED ORGANIZATIONS AND HOUSES OF**
 4 **WORSHIP.**

5 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

6 “(1) the term ‘Clearinghouse’ means the Clear-
 7 inghouse on Safety and Security Best Practices for
 8 Faith-Based Organizations and Houses of Worship
 9 established under subsection (b)(1);

10 “(2) the term ‘faith-based organization’ means
 11 a group, center, or nongovernmental organization
 12 with a religious, ideological, or spiritual motivation,
 13 character, affiliation, or purpose;

14 “(3) the term ‘house of worship’ means a place
 15 or building, including synagogues, mosques, temples,
 16 and churches, in which congregants practice their re-
 17 ligious or spiritual beliefs; and

18 “(4) the term ‘safety and security’, for the pur-
 19 pose of the Clearinghouse, means prevention of, pro-
 20 tection against, or recovery from threats, including
 21 manmade disasters, natural disasters, or violent at-
 22 tacks.

23 “(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days
 25 after the date of enactment of the Pray Safe Act,
 26 the Secretary, in consultation with the Attorney

1 General, the Executive Director of the White House
 2 Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partner-
 3 ships, and the head of any other agency that the
 4 Secretary determines appropriate, shall establish a
 5 Federal Clearinghouse on Safety and Security Best
 6 Practices for Faith-Based Organizations and Houses
 7 of Worship within the Department.

8 “(2) PURPOSE.—The Clearinghouse shall be
 9 the primary resource of the Federal Government—

10 “(A) to educate and publish online best
 11 practices and recommendations for safety and
 12 security for faith-based organizations and
 13 houses of worship; and

14 “(B) to provide information relating to
 15 Federal grant programs available to faith-based
 16 organizations and houses of worship.

17 “(3) PERSONNEL.—

18 “(A) ASSIGNMENTS.—The Clearinghouse
 19 shall be assigned such personnel and resources
 20 as the Secretary considers appropriate to carry
 21 out this section.

22 “(B) DETAILEES.—The Secretary may co-
 23 ordinate detailees as required for the Clearing-
 24 house.

1 “(C) DESIGNATED POINT OF CONTACT.—

2 There shall be not less than 1 employee as-
 3 signed or detailed to the Clearinghouse who
 4 shall be the designated point of contact to pro-
 5 vide information and assistance to faith-based
 6 organizations and houses of worship, including
 7 assistance relating to the grant program estab-
 8 lished under section 5 of the Pray Safe Act.
 9 The contact information of the designated point
 10 of contact shall be made available on the
 11 website of the Clearinghouse.

12 “(D) QUALIFICATION.—To the maximum
 13 extent possible, any personnel assigned or de-
 14 tailed to the Clearinghouse under this para-
 15 graph should be familiar with faith-based orga-
 16 nizations and houses of worship and with phys-
 17 ical and online security measures to identify
 18 and prevent safety and security risks.

19 “(c) CLEARINGHOUSE CONTENTS.—

20 “(1) EVIDENCE-BASED TIERS.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in con-
 22 sultation with the Attorney General, the Execu-
 23 tive Director of the White House Office of
 24 Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships,
 25 and the head of any other agency that the Sec-

retary determines appropriate, shall develop tiers for determining evidence-based practices that demonstrate a significant effect on improving safety or security, or both, for faith-based organizations and houses of worship.

“(B) REQUIREMENTS.—The tiers required to be developed under subparagraph (A) shall—

“(i) prioritize—

“(I) strong evidence from not less than 1 well-designed and well-implemented experimental study; and

“(II) moderate evidence from not less than 1 well-designed and well-implemented quasi-experimental study; and

“(ii) consider promising evidence that demonstrates a rationale based on high-quality research findings or positive evaluations that such activity, strategy, or intervention is likely to improve security and promote safety for faith-based organizations and houses of worship.

“(2) CRITERIA FOR BEST PRACTICES AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—The best practices and rec-

1 ommendations of the Clearinghouse shall, at a min-
2 imum—

3 “(A) identify areas of concern for faith-
4 based organizations and houses of worship, in-
5 cluding event planning recommendations, check-
6 lists, facility hardening, tabletop exercise re-
7 sources, and other resilience measures;

8 “(B) involve comprehensive safety meas-
9 ures, including threat prevention, preparedness,
10 protection, mitigation, incident response, and
11 recovery to improve the safety posture of faith-
12 based organizations and houses of worship upon
13 implementation;

14 “(C) involve comprehensive safety meas-
15 ures, including preparedness, protection, mitiga-
16 tion, incident response, and recovery to improve
17 the resiliency of faith-based organizations and
18 houses of worship from manmade and natural
19 disasters;

20 “(D) include any evidence or research ra-
21 tionale supporting the determination of the
22 Clearinghouse that the best practices or rec-
23 ommendations under subparagraph (B) have
24 been shown to have a significant effect on im-
25 proving the safety and security of individuals in

1 faith-based organizations and houses of wor-
2 ship, including—

3 “(i) findings and data from previous
4 Federal, State, local, Tribal, territorial,
5 private sector, and nongovernmental orga-
6 nization research centers relating to safety,
7 security, and targeted violence at faith-
8 based organizations and houses of worship;
9 and

10 “(ii) other supportive evidence or find-
11 ings relied upon by the Clearinghouse in
12 determining best practices and recommen-
13 dations to improve the safety and security
14 posture of a faith-based organization or
15 house of worship upon implementation;
16 and

17 “(E) include an overview of the available
18 resources the Clearinghouse can provide for
19 faith-based organizations and houses of wor-
20 ship.

21 “(3) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—The Clear-
22 inghouse shall maintain and make available a com-
23 prehensive index of all Federal grant programs for
24 which faith-based organizations and houses of wor-
25 ship are eligible, which shall include the performance

1 metrics for each grant management that the recipi-
 2 ent will be required to provide.

3 “(4) PAST RECOMMENDATIONS.—To the great-
 4 est extent practicable, the Clearinghouse shall iden-
 5 tify and present, as appropriate, best practices and
 6 recommendations issued by Federal, State, local,
 7 Tribal, territorial, private sector, and nongovern-
 8 mental organizations relevant to the safety and secu-
 9 rity of faith-based organizations and houses of wor-
 10 ship.

11 “(d) ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING.—The Secretary
 12 may produce and publish materials on the Clearinghouse
 13 to assist and train faith-based organizations, houses of
 14 worship, and law enforcement agencies on the implementa-
 15 tion of the best practices and recommendations.

16 “(e) CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

18 “(A) collect for the purpose of continuous
 19 improvement of the Clearinghouse—

20 “(i) Clearinghouse data analytics;

21 “(ii) user feedback on the implemen-
 22 tation of resources, best practices, and rec-
 23 ommendations identified by the Clearing-
 24 house; and

1 “(iii) any evaluations conducted on
2 implementation of the best practices and
3 recommendations of the Clearinghouse;
4 and

5 “(B) in coordination with the Faith-Based
6 Security Advisory Council of the Department,
7 the Department of Justice, the Executive Direc-
8 tor of the White House Office of Faith-Based
9 and Neighborhood Partnerships, and any other
10 agency that the Secretary determines appro-
11 priate—

12 “(i) assess and identify Clearinghouse
13 best practices and recommendations for
14 which there are no resources available
15 through Federal Government programs for
16 implementation;

17 “(ii) provide feedback on the imple-
18 mentation of best practices and recommen-
19 dations of the Clearinghouse; and

20 “(iii) propose additional recommenda-
21 tions for best practices for inclusion in the
22 Clearinghouse; and

23 “(C) not less frequently than annually, ex-
24 amine and update the Clearinghouse in accord-
25 ance with—

1 “(i) the information collected under
2 subparagraph (A); and

3 “(ii) the recommendations proposed
4 under subparagraph (B)(iii).

5 “(2) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The
6 Secretary shall submit to Congress, on an annual
7 basis, a report on the updates made to the Clearing-
8 house during the preceding 1-year period under
9 paragraph (1)(C), which shall include a description
10 of any changes made to the Clearinghouse.”.

11 (b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
12 in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002
13 (Public Law 107–296; 116 Stat. 2135), as amended by
14 section 9 of this Act, is amended by inserting after the
15 item relating to section 2220 the following:

“Sec. 2220A. Federal Clearinghouse on Safety Best Practices for Faith-Based
Organizations and Houses of Worship.”.

16 **SEC. 4. NOTIFICATION OF CLEARINGHOUSE.**

17 The Secretary shall provide written notification of the
18 establishment of the Clearinghouse, with an overview of
19 the resources required as described in section 2220A of
20 the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section
21 3 of this Act, and section 5 of this Act, to—

22 (1) every State homeland security advisor;

23 (2) every State department of homeland secu-
24 rity;

1 (3) other Federal agencies with grant programs
2 or initiatives that aid in the safety and security of
3 faith-based organizations and houses of worship, as
4 determined appropriate by the Secretary;

5 (4) every Federal Bureau of Investigation Joint
6 Terrorism Task Force;

7 (5) every Homeland Security Fusion Center;

8 (6) every State or territorial Governor or other
9 chief executive;

10 (7) the Committee on Homeland Security and
11 Governmental Affairs and the Committee on the Ju-
12 diciary of the Senate; and

13 (8) the Committee on Homeland Security and
14 the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of
15 Representatives.

16 **SEC. 5. GRANT PROGRAM OVERVIEW.**

17 (a) DHS GRANTS AND RESOURCES.—The Secretary
18 shall include a grants program overview on the website
19 of the Clearinghouse that shall—

20 (1) be the primary location for all information
21 regarding Department grant programs that are open
22 to faith-based organizations and houses of worship;

23 (2) directly link to each grant application and
24 any applicable user guides;

1 (3) identify all safety and security homeland se-
2 curity assistance programs managed by the Depart-
3 ment that may be used to implement best practices
4 and recommendation of the Clearinghouse;

5 (4) annually, and concurrent with the applica-
6 tion period for any grant identified under paragraph
7 (1), provide information related to the required ele-
8 ments of grant applications to aid smaller faith
9 based organizations and houses of worship in earn-
10 ing access to Federal grants; and

11 (5) provide frequently asked questions and an-
12 swers for the implementation of best practices and
13 recommendations of the Clearinghouse and best
14 practices for applying for a grant identified under
15 paragraph (1).

16 (b) OTHER FEDERAL GRANTS AND RESOURCES.—
17 Each Federal agency notified under section 4(3) shall pro-
18 vide necessary information on any Federal grant programs
19 or resources of the Federal agency that are available for
20 faith-based organizations and houses of worship to the
21 Secretary or the appropriate point of contact for the
22 Clearinghouse.

23 (c) STATE GRANTS AND RESOURCES.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—Any State notified under
25 paragraph (1), (2), or (6) of section 4 may provide

1 necessary information on any grant programs or re-
2 sources of the State available for faith-based organi-
3 zations and houses of worship to the Secretary or
4 the appropriate point of contact for the Clearing-
5 house.

6 (2) IDENTIFICATION OF RESOURCES.—The
7 Clearinghouse shall, to the extent practicable, iden-
8 tify, for each State—

9 (A) each agency responsible for safety for
10 faith-based organizations and houses of worship
11 in the State, or any State that does not have
12 such an agency designated;

13 (B) any grant program that may be used
14 for the purposes of implementing best practices
15 and recommendations of the Clearinghouse; and

16 (C) any resources or programs, including
17 community prevention or intervention efforts,
18 that may be used to assist in targeted violence
19 and terrorism prevention.

20 **SEC. 6. OTHER RESOURCES.**

21 The Secretary shall, on the website of the Clearing-
22 house, include a separate section for other resources that
23 shall provide a centralized list of all available points of
24 contact to seek assistance in grant applications and in car-

1 rying out the best practices and recommendations of the
 2 Clearinghouse, including—

3 (1) a list of contact information to reach De-
 4 partment personnel to assist with grant-related ques-
 5 tions;

6 (2) the applicable Cybersecurity and Infrastruc-
 7 ture Security Agency contact information to connect
 8 houses of worship with Protective Security Advisors;

9 (3) contact information for all Department Fu-
 10 sion Centers, listed by State;

11 (4) information on the If you See Something
 12 Say Something Campaign of the Department; and

13 (5) any other appropriate contacts.

14 **SEC. 7. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

15 Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this
 16 Act shall be construed to create, satisfy, or waive any re-
 17 quirement under Federal civil rights laws, including—

18 (1) title II of the Americans With Disabilities
 19 Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12131 et seq.); or

20 (2) title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42
 21 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.).

22 **SEC. 8. EXEMPTION.**

23 Chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (com-
 24 monly known as the “Paperwork Reduction Act”) shall
 25 not apply to any rulemaking or information collection re-

1 quired under this Act or under section 2220A of the
2 Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 3
3 of this Act.

4 **SEC. 9. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.**

5 (a) REDESIGNATIONS.—Subtitle A of title XXII of
6 the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 651 et seq.)
7 is amended—

8 (1) by redesignating section 2217 (6 U.S.C.
9 665f) as section 2220;

10 (2) by redesignating section 2216 (6 U.S.C.
11 665e) as section 2219;

12 (3) by redesignating the fourth section 2215
13 (relating to Sector Risk Management Agencies) (6
14 U.S.C. 665d) as section 2218;

15 (4) by redesignating the third section 2215 (re-
16 lating to the Cybersecurity State Coordinator) (6
17 U.S.C. 665c) as section 2217; and

18 (5) by redesignating the second section 2215
19 (relating to the Joint Cyber Planning Office) (6
20 U.S.C. 665b) as section 2216.

21 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—
22 Section 2202(c) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002
23 (6 U.S.C. 652(c)) is amended—

24 (1) in paragraph (11), by striking “and” at the
25 end;

1 (2) in the first paragraph (12)—

2 (A) by striking “section 2215” and insert-
3 ing “section 2217”; and

4 (B) by striking “and” at the end; and

5 (3) by redesignating the second and third para-
6 graphs (12) as paragraphs (13) and (14), respec-
7 tively.

8 (c) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents in
9 section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Public
10 Law 107–296; 116 Stat. 2135) is amended by striking
11 the item relating to section 2214 and all that follows
12 through the item relating to section 2217 and inserting
13 the following:

“Sec. 2214. National Asset Database.

“Sec. 2215. Duties and authorities relating to .gov internet domain.

“Sec. 2216. Joint Cyber Planning Office.

“Sec. 2217. Cybersecurity State Coordinator.

“Sec. 2218. Sector Risk Management Agencies.

“Sec. 2219. Cybersecurity Advisory Committee.

“Sec. 2220. Cybersecurity education and training programs.”.

14 (d) ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—

15 (1) AMENDMENT.—Section 904(b)(1) of the
16 DOTGOV Act of 2020 (title IX of division U of
17 Public Law 116–260) is amended, in the matter pre-
18 ceding subparagraph (A), by striking “Homeland
19 Security Act” and inserting “Homeland Security Act
20 of 2002”.

21 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made
22 by paragraph (1) shall take effect as if enacted as

1 part of the DOTGOV Act of 2020 (title IX of divi-
2 sion U of Public Law 116–260).

Passed the Senate April 5, 2022.

Attest:

Secretary.

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