

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 10322

To improve the effectiveness of body armor issued to female agents and officers of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 6, 2024

Mrs. McIVER (for herself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. EZELL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

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## A BILL

To improve the effectiveness of body armor issued to female agents and officers of the Department of Homeland Security, 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 “DHS Better Ballistic  
5 Body Armor Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROCUREMENT OF BALLISTIC RESISTANT BODY**  
2 **ARMOR TO ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF FE-**  
3 **MALE AGENTS AND OFFICERS OF THE DE-**  
4 **PARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Secu-  
6 rity shall require components of the Department of Home-  
7 land Security, when procuring ballistic resistant body  
8 armor for agents and officers, to procure ballistic resistant  
9 body armor that complies with the following requirements:

10 (1) Is specifically designed to fully protect the  
11 body shapes of agents and officers.

12 (2) Is made to conform to the individual wearer  
13 and provide the best possible fit and coverage to  
14 allow for either a flat or shaped front panel.

15 (3) Is assessed and verified, upon delivery, to  
16 fit properly and have sufficient coverage in accord-  
17 ance with American Society for Testing and Mate-  
18 rials (ASTM International) standards for fit.

19 (4) Has enhanced and advanced fit and tech-  
20 nology that stops a bullet from redirecting off the  
21 chest at an upward angle into the throat region or  
22 the spinal cord area.

23 (5) Is certified by the National Institute of Jus-  
24 tice (NIJ), pursuant to the NIJ standard for bal-  
25 listic resistant body armor, and included on the as-  
26 sociated NIJ Compliant Products List as success-

1 fully passing the ballistic resistant body armor  
2 standards in accordance with the applicable ballistic  
3 protection level recommended by the NIJ, including  
4 passing testing that uses, for each test sample, the  
5 following:

6 (A) Ballistic testing on clay or gelatin  
7 molds to ensure better contact of nonplanar  
8 panels with such clay or gelatin molds, as re-  
9 quired by the body shapes of agents and offi-  
10 cers.

11 (B) Soft body armor front panels con-  
12 tained in soft carriers on female-shaped clay or  
13 gelatin molds designed to fill the space behind  
14 the panel.

15 (C) Shots to be placed on shaping features.

16 (D) Angled shots.

17 (E) An angled shot at the chest to address  
18 the concern of a bullet skipping into the neck-  
19 line.

20 (F) Any additional testing criteria rec-  
21 ommended by the NIJ on or after the date of  
22 the enactment of this Act.

23 (b) ANNUAL REPORTS.—

24 (1) ISSUANCE OF BALLISTIC RESISTANT BODY  
25 ARMOR.—Not later than one year after the date of

1 the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter  
2 for the following two years, the head of each relevant  
3 component of the Department of Homeland Security  
4 shall submit to the Secretary of Homeland Security  
5 a report regarding the ballistic resistant body armor  
6 issued to female agents and officers of such compo-  
7 nent, including with respect to the reporting period,  
8 information relating to the following:

9 (A) The number of female agents and offi-  
10 cers to whom ballistic resistant body armor was  
11 issued for performance of their official duties.

12 (B) The number of ballistic resistant body  
13 armor units issued to female agents and officers  
14 before the date of the enactment of this Act,  
15 the use of which was discontinued due to non-  
16 compliance with the requirements described in  
17 subsection (a).

18 (C) The number of ballistic resistant body  
19 armor units issued to female agents and officers  
20 before the date of the enactment of this Act  
21 that are compliant with the requirements de-  
22 scribed in subsection (a).

23 (D) The percentage of female agents and  
24 officers of such component who, as of the last  
25 day of the reporting period, have been issued

1           ballistic resistant body armor that complies  
2           with the requirements described in subsection  
3           (a), disaggregated by duty station.

4           (2) AGGREGATE REPORT.—Not later than 30  
5           days after receiving all of the reports required under  
6           paragraph (1) during a reporting period, the Sec-  
7           retary of Homeland Security shall submit to the  
8           Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental  
9           Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Home-  
10          land Security of the House of Representatives a re-  
11          port that aggregates all of the data contained in  
12          such reports.

13          (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Not later than three years  
14          after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
15          of Homeland Security shall ensure that all agents and offi-  
16          cers of any component of the Department of Homeland  
17          Security whose duties require body armor shall have been  
18          issued body armor that complies with the requirements de-  
19          scribed in subsection (a).

20          (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the term “bal-  
21          listic resistant body armor” means torso ballistic protec-  
22          tion containing either soft ballistic panels, hard ballistic  
23          panels, or a combination of both, contained within a car-  
24          rier, which may be concealable for wear under a uniform

- 1 shirt or external for wear over a uniform shirt, and holds
- 2 panels and plates in position on the torso.

