

Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, HR. 2390, with An Amendment

(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2390

To require a review of university-based centers for homeland security, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 18, 2015

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi (for himself and Mr. RICHMOND) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require a review of university-based centers for 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 “Homeland Security
5 University-based Centers Review Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REVIEW OF UNIVERSITY-BASED CENTERS.**

2 (a) GAO STUDY OF UNIVERSITY-BASED CENTERS.—

3 Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of
4 this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States
5 shall initiate a study to assess the university-based centers
6 for homeland security program authorized by section
7 308(b)(2) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6
8 U.S.C. 188(b)(2)), and provide recommendations to the
9 Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on
10 Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Rep-
11 resentatives and the Committee on Homeland Security
12 and Governmental Affairs of the Senate for appropriate
13 improvements.

14 (b) SUBJECT MATTERS.—The study under sub-
15 section (a) shall include the following:

16 (1) A review of the Department of Homeland
17 Security's efforts to identify key areas of study need-
18 ed to support the homeland security mission, and
19 criteria that the Department utilized to determine
20 those key areas for which the Department should
21 maintain, establish, or eliminate university-based
22 centers.

23 (2) A review of the method by which university-
24 based centers, federally funded research and develop-
25 ment centers, and Department of Energy national
26 laboratories receive tasking from the Department of

1 Homeland Security, including a review of how uni-
2 versity-based research is identified, prioritized, and
3 funded.

4 (3) A review of selection criteria for designating
5 university-based centers and a weighting of such cri-
6 teria.

7 (4) An examination of best practices from other
8 agencies' efforts to organize and use university-
9 based research to support their missions.

10 (5) A review of the Department of Homeland
11 Security's criteria and metrics to measure demon-
12 strable progress achieved by university-based centers
13 in fulfilling Department taskings, and mechanisms
14 for delivering and disseminating the research results
15 of designated university-based centers within the De-
16 partment and to other Federal, State, and local
17 agencies.

18 (6) An examination of the means by which aca-
19 demic institutions that are not designated or associ-
20 ated with the designated university-based centers
21 can optimally contribute to the research mission of
22 the Directorate of Science and Technology of the
23 Department of Homeland Security.

24 (7) An assessment of the interrelationship be-
25 tween the different university-based centers and the

1 degree to which outreach and collaboration among a
2 diverse array of academic institutions is encouraged
3 by the Department of Homeland Security, particu-
4 larly with historically Black colleges and universities
5 and minority serving institutions.

6 (8) A review of any other essential elements of
7 the programs determined in the conduct of the
8 study.

9 (c) INFORMATION RELATING TO UNIVERSITY-BASED
10 CENTERS.—Subparagraph (D) of section 308(b)(2) of the
11 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 188(b)(2)) is
12 amended to read as follows:

13 “(D) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—
14 Not later than one year after the date of the
15 enactment of this subparagraph and annually
16 thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to Con-
17 gress a report on the implementation of this
18 section. Each such report shall—

19 “(i) indicate which center or centers
20 have been designated pursuant to this sec-
21 tion;

22 “(ii) describe how such designation or
23 designations enhance homeland security;

1 “(iii) provide information on any deci-
2 sions to revoke or modify such designation
3 or designations;

4 “(iv) describe research that has been
5 tasked and completed by each center that
6 has been designated during the preceding
7 year;

8 “(v) describe funding provided by the
9 Secretary for each center under clause (iv)
10 for that year; and

11 “(vi) describe plans for utilization of
12 each center or centers in the forthcoming
13 year.”.