

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3756

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security to research and evaluate existing Federal research regarding approaches to mitigate climate change on homeland security to identify areas for further research within the Department, research and develop approaches to mitigate the consequences of climate change on homeland security, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 8, 2021

Ms. CLARKE of New York (for herself and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

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## A BILL

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security to research and evaluate existing Federal research regarding approaches to mitigate climate change on homeland security to identify areas for further research within the Department, research and develop approaches to mitigate the consequences of climate change on 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Department of Home-  
3 land Security Climate Change Research Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. CLIMATE CHANGE PLANNING, RESEARCH AND DE-**  
5 **VELOPMENT, AND PROTECTION AND PRE-**  
6 **PAREDNESS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Homeland Secu-  
8 rity Act of 2002 is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
9 lowing new section:

10 **“SEC. 322. CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH AND DEVELOP-**  
11 **MENT.**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary for Science  
13 and Technology—

14 “(1) shall evaluate existing Federal research re-  
15 garding approaches to mitigate the consequence of  
16 climate change on homeland security to identify  
17 areas for additional research and development pur-  
18 suant to paragraph (2) with respect to—

19 “(A) any connection between climate  
20 change and homeland security, including how  
21 the resulting competition for resources, eco-  
22 nomic distress, and social discontent has con-  
23 tributed to, among other outcomes, acts of ter-  
24 rorism;

25 “(B) the degree to which climate change is  
26 reflected in terrorism preparedness and emer-

1 agency planning and policies, including with re-  
2 spect to preparedness, response to, and recovery  
3 from natural disasters; and

4 “(C) the degree to which the Federal fund-  
5 ing structure to respond to major disaster dec-  
6 larations and emergency declarations is ade-  
7 quately structured to meet the demands of re-  
8 sponding to and recovering from acts of ter-  
9 rorism and natural disasters that are aggra-  
10 vated by climate change; and

11 “(2) shall, to the extent practicable, conduct re-  
12 search and development on approaches to mitigate  
13 the consequences of climate change on homeland se-  
14 curity in response to finding pursuant to paragraph  
15 (1).

16 “(b) SCOPE.—The scope of the research and develop-  
17 ment under subsection (a)(2) shall include the following:

18 “(1) Any connection between climate change  
19 and homeland security, including how the resulting  
20 competition for resources, economic distress, and so-  
21 cial discontent can contribute to, among other out-  
22 comes, acts of terrorism.

23 “(2) The degree to which climate change is re-  
24 flected in terrorism preparedness and emergency  
25 planning and policies, including with respect to pre-

1       paredness, response to, and recovery from natural  
2       disasters.

3               “(3) The degree to which the Federal funding  
4       structure to respond to major disaster declarations  
5       and emergency declarations is adequately structured  
6       to meet the demands of responding to and recover-  
7       ing from acts of terrorism and natural disasters  
8       that are aggravated by climate change.

9               “(c) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this section,  
10      the Under Secretary for Science and Technology shall con-  
11      sult with the heads of other relevant agencies and depart-  
12      ments of the Federal Government, first responders, and  
13      relevant owners and operators of critical infrastructure.

14              “(d) CLIMATE CHANGE DEFINED.—The term ‘cli-  
15      mate change’ refers to detectable changes in one or more  
16      climate system components that is directly or indirectly  
17      attributed to—

18                      “(1) human activity; and

19                      “(2) altering the composition of the global at-  
20      mosphere.”.

21              (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
22      in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is  
23      amended by inserting after the item relating to section  
24      321 the following new item:

“Sec. 322. Climate change research and development.”.

1 **SEC. 3. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

2 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment  
3 of this Act and annually thereafter for 3 years, the Under  
4 Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department  
5 of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on  
6 Homeland Security and the Committee on Science, Space,  
7 and Technology of the House of Representatives and the  
8 Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Af-  
9 fairs of the Senate a report on any research and develop-  
10 ment activities carried out pursuant to section 322 of the  
11 Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by this Act.

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