

**Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H. R. 2795, With an
Amendment**

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

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2795

To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit a study on the circumstances which may impact the effectiveness and availability of first responders before, during, or after a terrorist threat or event.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 16, 2015

Ms. JACKSON LEE (for herself, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. BASS, Ms. LEE, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Mr. PALLONE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit a study on the circumstances which may impact the effectiveness and availability of first responders before, during, or after a terrorist threat or event.

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 “First Responder Iden-
3 tification of Emergency Needs in Disaster Situations” or
4 the “FRIENDS Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH MAY IMPACT FIRST RE-**
6 **SPONDERS DURING A TERRORIST EVENT.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the
8 date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
9 of the United States shall submit to the Committee on
10 Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and
11 the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental
12 Affairs of the Senate a report that describes select State
13 and local programs and policies, as appropriate, related
14 to the preparedness and protection of first responders.
15 The report may include information on—

16 (1) the degree to which such programs and poli-
17 cies include consideration of the presence of a first
18 responder’s family in an area impacted by a terrorist
19 attack;

20 (2) the availability of personal protective equip-
21 ment for first responders;

22 (3) the availability of home Medkits for first re-
23 sponders and their families for biological incident re-
24 sponse; and

25 (4) other related factors.

1 (b) CONTEXT.—In preparing the report required
2 under subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the
3 United States may, as appropriate, provide information—

4 (1) in a format that delineates high risk urban
5 areas from rural communities; and

6 (2) on the degree to which the selected State
7 and local programs and policies included in the re-
8 port were developed or are being executed with fund-
9 ing from the Department of Homeland Security, in-
10 cluding grant funding from the State Homeland Se-
11 curity Grant Program or the Urban Area Security
12 Initiative under sections 2002 and 2003, respec-
13 tively, of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6
14 U.S.C. 603 and 604).

15 (c) HOMELAND SECURITY CONSIDERATION.—After
16 issuance of the report required under subsection (a), the
17 Secretary of Homeland Security shall consider the report's
18 findings and assess its applicability for Federal first re-
19 sponders.