

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5206

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the Office of Biometric Identity Management, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 7, 2018

Ms. MCSALLY (for herself, Mr. BACON, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, and Mr. McCAUL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

A BILL

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish the Office of Biometric Identity Management, 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 “Office of Biometric
5 Identity Management Authorization Act of 2018” or the
6 “OBIM Authorization Act of 2018”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OFFICE OF BIOMETRIC**
2 **IDENTITY MANAGEMENT.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title VII of the Homeland Secu-
4 rity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 341 et. seq.) is amended by
5 adding at the end the following new section:

6 **“SEC. 710. OFFICE OF BIOMETRIC IDENTITY MANAGEMENT.**

7 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Office of Biometric
8 Identity Management is established within the Depart-
9 ment.

10 “(b) DIRECTOR.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Office of Biometric
12 Identity Management shall be administered by the
13 Director of the Office of Biometric Identity Manage-
14 ment (in this section referred to as the ‘Director’)
15 who shall report to the Secretary, or to another offi-
16 cial of the Department, as the Secretary may direct.

17 “(2) QUALIFICATIONS AND DUTIES.—The Di-
18 rector shall—

19 “(A) have significant professional manage-
20 ment experience, as well as experience in the
21 field of biometrics and identity management;

22 “(B) lead the Department’s biometric iden-
23 tity services to support anti-terrorism, counter-
24 terrorism, border security, credentialing, na-
25 tional security, and public safety;

1 “(C) enable operational missions across the
2 Department by matching, storing, sharing, and
3 analyzing biometric data;

4 “(D) deliver biometric identity information
5 and analysis capabilities to—

6 “(i) the Department and its compo-
7 nents;

8 “(ii) appropriate Federal, State, local,
9 and tribal agencies;

10 “(iii) appropriate foreign govern-
11 ments; and

12 “(iv) appropriate private sector enti-
13 ties;

14 “(E) support the law enforcement, public
15 safety, national security, and homeland security
16 missions of other Federal, State, local, and trib-
17 al agencies, as appropriate;

18 “(F) manage the operation of the Depart-
19 ment’s sole biometric repository;

20 “(G) manage Biometric Support Centers
21 to provide biometric identification and
22 verification analysis and services to the Depart-
23 ment, appropriate Federal, State, local, and
24 tribal agencies, appropriate foreign govern-
25 ments, and appropriate private sector entities;

1 “(H) in collaboration with the Under Sec-
2 retary for Science and Technology, establish a
3 Department-wide research and development
4 program to support efforts in assessment, devel-
5 opment, and exploration of biometric advance-
6 ments and emerging technologies;

7 “(I) oversee Department-wide standards
8 for biometric conformity, and work to make
9 such standards Government-wide;

10 “(J) in coordination with the Department’s
11 Office of Policy, and in consultation with rel-
12 evant component offices and headquarters of-
13 fices, enter into data sharing agreements with
14 appropriate Federal agencies to support immi-
15 gration, law enforcement, national security, and
16 public safety missions;

17 “(K) maximize interoperability with other
18 Federal, State, local, and international biomet-
19 ric systems, as appropriate; and

20 “(L) carry out the duties and powers pre-
21 scribed by law or delegated by the Secretary.

22 “(c) DEPUTY DIRECTOR.—There shall be in the Of-
23 fice of Biometric Identity Management a Deputy Director,
24 who shall assist the Director in the management of the
25 Office.

1 “(d) OTHER AUTHORITIES.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director may establish
3 such other offices within the Office of Biometric
4 Identity Management as the Director determines
5 necessary to carry out the missions, duties, func-
6 tions, and authorities of the Office.

7 “(2) NOTIFICATION.—If the Director exercises
8 the authority provided by paragraph (1), the Direc-
9 tor shall notify the Committee on Homeland Secu-
10 rity of the House of Representatives and the Com-
11 mittee on Homeland Security and Governmental Af-
12 fairs of the Senate not later than 30 days before ex-
13 ercising such authority.”.

14 (b) TRANSFER LIMITATION.—The Secretary of
15 Homeland Security may not transfer the location or re-
16 porting structure of the Office of Biometric Identity Man-
17 agement (established pursuant to section 710 of the
18 Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by subsection
19 (a) of this section) to any component of the Department
20 of Homeland Security.

21 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
22 in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is
23 amended by adding after the item relating to section 709
24 the following new item:

“Sec. 710. Office of Biometric Identity Management.”.

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