

Require an inventory of each homeland security grant program that incorporates the purpose, objectives and performance goals of each program.

The Redundancy Elimination and Enhanced Performance for Preparedness Grants Act would require FEMA to provide the Committee on Homeland Security with the plan required by the bill not later than 90 days after enactment of the bill.

This bill would also require biannual updates to maintain a careful and watchful eye on redundancies in the law that might hamper or confuse grant recipients.

The House unanimously passed H.R. 3980 on Dec. 2, 2009, and the Senate passed an amendment in the nature of a substitute for H.R. 3980 on September 22, 2010.

The Senate improved upon the House-passed bill by requiring FEMA to task the National Academy of Public Administration, NAPA, to study, develop and recommend performance measures for grants the Department of Homeland Security administers.

As you know, Mr. Speaker, NAPA is a congressionally-chartered nonprofit organization that has extensive experience working on performance measurement and they will provide valuable expertise to FEMA.

Mr. Speaker, this bill will ensure that FEMA takes steps to determine the Nation's overall preparedness and how homeland security grants have built the necessary capabilities to prepare for, protect against, and respond to an act of terrorism and other threats.

I urge all my colleagues to support the Senate Amendment to H.R. 3980.

Mr. CUELLAR. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MORAN of Virginia). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 3980.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REDUCING OVER-CLASSIFICATION ACT

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 553) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop a strategy to prevent the over-classification of homeland security and other information and to promote the sharing of unclassified homeland security and other information, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Reducing Over-Classification Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (commonly known

as the "9/11 Commission") concluded that security requirements nurture over-classification and excessive compartmentation of information among agencies.

(2) The 9/11 Commission and others have observed that the over-classification of information interferes with accurate, actionable, and timely information sharing, increases the cost of information security, and needlessly limits stakeholder and public access to information.

(3) Over-classification of information causes considerable confusion regarding what information may be shared with whom, and negatively affects the dissemination of information within the Federal Government and with State, local, and tribal entities, and with the private sector.

(4) Over-classification of information is antithetical to the creation and operation of the information sharing environment established under section 1016 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (6 U.S.C. 485).

(5) Federal departments or agencies authorized to make original classification decisions or that perform derivative classification of information are responsible for developing, implementing, and administering policies, procedures, and programs that promote compliance with applicable laws, executive orders, and other authorities pertaining to the proper use of classification markings and the policies of the National Archives and Records Administration.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) DERIVATIVE CLASSIFICATION AND ORIGINAL CLASSIFICATION.—The terms "derivative classification" and "original classification" have the meanings given those terms in Executive Order No. 13526.

(2) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—The term "Executive agency" has the meaning given that term in section 105 of title 5, United States Code.

(3) EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 13526.—The term "Executive Order No. 13526" means Executive Order No. 13526 (75 Fed. Reg. 707; relating to classified national security information) or any subsequent corresponding executive order.

SEC. 4. CLASSIFIED INFORMATION ADVISORY OFFICER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 121 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 210F. CLASSIFIED INFORMATION ADVISORY OFFICER.

"(a) REQUIREMENT TO ESTABLISH.—The Secretary shall identify and designate within the Department a Classified Information Advisory Officer, as described in this section.

"(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The responsibilities of the Classified Information Advisory Officer shall be as follows:

"(1) To develop and disseminate educational materials and to develop and administer training programs to assist State, local, and tribal governments (including State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies) and private sector entities—

"(A) in developing plans and policies to respond to requests related to classified information without communicating such information to individuals who lack appropriate security clearances;

"(B) regarding the appropriate procedures for challenging classification designations of information received by personnel of such entities; and

"(C) on the means by which such personnel may apply for security clearances.

"(2) To inform the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis on policies and procedures that could facilitate the sharing of classified information with such personnel, as appropriate.

"(c) INITIAL DESIGNATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Reducing Over-Classification Act, the Secretary shall—

"(1) designate the initial Classified Information Advisory Officer; and

"(2) submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives a written notification of the designation."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 210E the following:

"Sec. 210F. Classified Information Advisory Officer."

SEC. 5. INTELLIGENCE INFORMATION SHARING.

(a) DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDANCE FOR INTELLIGENCE PRODUCTS.—Paragraph (1) of section 102A(g) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 403-1(g)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (E), by striking "and" at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (F), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon and "and"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(G) in accordance with Executive Order No. 13526 (75 Fed. Reg. 707; relating to classified national security information) (or any subsequent corresponding executive order), and part 2001 of title 32, Code of Federal Regulations (or any subsequent corresponding regulation), establish—

"(i) guidance to standardize, in appropriate cases, the formats for classified and unclassified intelligence products created by elements of the intelligence community for purposes of promoting the sharing of intelligence products; and

"(ii) policies and procedures requiring the increased use, in appropriate cases, and including portion markings, of the classification of portions of information within one intelligence product."

(b) CREATION OF UNCLASSIFIED INTELLIGENCE PRODUCTS AS APPROPRIATE FOR STATE, LOCAL, TRIBAL, AND PRIVATE SECTOR STAKEHOLDERS.—

(1) RESPONSIBILITIES AND ANALYSIS AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION.—Paragraph (3) of section 201(d) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 121(d)) is amended to read as follows:

"(3) To integrate relevant information, analysis, and vulnerability assessments (regardless of whether such information, analysis or assessments are provided by or produced by the Department) in order to—

"(A) identify priorities for protective and support measures regarding terrorist and other threats to homeland security by the Department, other agencies of the Federal Government, State, and local government agencies and authorities, the private sector, and other entities; and

"(B) prepare finished intelligence and information products in both classified and unclassified formats, as appropriate, whenever reasonably expected to be of benefit to a State, local, or tribal government (including a State, local, or tribal law enforcement agency) or a private sector entity."

(2) ITACG DETAIL.—Section 210D(d) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 124k(d)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (5)—

(i) in subparagraph (D), by striking "and" at the end;

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as subparagraph (F); and

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following:

"(E) make recommendations, as appropriate, to the Secretary or the Secretary's designee, for the further dissemination of intelligence products that could likely inform or improve the security of a State, local, or tribal government, (including a State, local, or tribal law enforcement agency) or a private sector entity; and";

(B) in paragraph (6)(C), by striking "and" at the end;

(C) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon and “and”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(8) compile an annual assessment of the ITACG Detail’s performance, including summaries of customer feedback, in preparing, disseminating, and requesting the dissemination of intelligence products intended for State, local and tribal government (including State, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies) and private sector entities; and

“(9) provide the assessment developed pursuant to paragraph (8) to the program manager for use in the annual reports required by subsection (c)(2).”.

(c) INTERAGENCY THREAT ASSESSMENT AND COORDINATION GROUP ANNUAL REPORT MODIFICATION.—Subsection (c) of section 210D of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 124k) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “, in consultation with the Information Sharing Council,”;

(2) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at the end;

(3) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon and “and”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) in each report required by paragraph (2) submitted after the date of the enactment of the Reducing Over-Classification Act, include an assessment of whether the detailees under subsection (d)(5) have appropriate access to all relevant information, as required by subsection (g)(2)(C).”.

SEC. 6. PROMOTION OF ACCURATE CLASSIFICATION OF INFORMATION.

(a) INCENTIVES FOR ACCURATE CLASSIFICATIONS.—In making cash awards under chapter 45 of title 5, United States Code, the President or the head of an Executive agency with an officer or employee who is authorized to make original classification decisions or derivative classification decisions may consider such officer’s or employee’s consistent and proper classification of information.

(b) INSPECTOR GENERAL EVALUATIONS.—

(1) REQUIREMENT FOR EVALUATIONS.—Not later than September 30, 2016, the inspector general of each department or agency of the United States with an officer or employee who is authorized to make original classifications, in consultation with the Information Security Oversight Office, shall carry out no less than two evaluations of that department or agency or a component of the department or agency—

(A) to assess whether applicable classification policies, procedures, rules, and regulations have been adopted, followed, and effectively administered within such department, agency, or component; and

(B) to identify policies, procedures, rules, regulations, or management practices that may be contributing to persistent misclassification of material within such department, agency or component.

(2) DEADLINES FOR EVALUATIONS.—

(A) INITIAL EVALUATIONS.—Each first evaluation required by paragraph (1) shall be completed no later than September 30, 2013.

(B) SECOND EVALUATIONS.—Each second evaluation required by paragraph (1) shall review progress made pursuant to the results of the first evaluation and shall be completed no later than September 30, 2016.

(3) REPORTS.—

(A) REQUIREMENT.—Each inspector general who is required to carry out an evaluation under paragraph (1) shall submit to the appropriate entities a report on each such evaluation.

(B) CONTENT.—Each report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include a description of—

(i) the policies, procedures, rules, regulations, or management practices, if any, identified by the inspector general under paragraph (1)(B); and

(ii) the recommendations, if any, of the inspector general to address any such identified policies, procedures, rules, regulations, or management practices.

(C) COORDINATION.—The inspectors general who are required to carry out evaluations under paragraph (1) shall coordinate with each other and with the Information Security Oversight Office to ensure that evaluations follow a consistent methodology, as appropriate, that allows for cross-agency comparisons.

(4) APPROPRIATE ENTITIES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “appropriate entities” means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives;

(C) any other committee of Congress with jurisdiction over a department or agency referred to in paragraph (1);

(D) the head of a department or agency referred to in paragraph (1); and

(E) the Director of the Information Security Oversight Office.

SEC. 7. CLASSIFICATION TRAINING PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The head of each Executive agency, in accordance with Executive Order 13526, shall require annual training for each employee who has original classification authority. For employees who perform derivative classification, or are responsible for analysis, dissemination, preparation, production, receipt, publication, or otherwise communication of classified information, training shall be provided at least every two years. Such training shall—

(1) educate the employee, as appropriate, regarding—

(A) the guidance established under subparagraph (G) of section 102A(g)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 403-1(g)(1)), as added by section 5(a)(3), regarding the formatting of finished intelligence products;

(B) the proper use of classification markings, including portion markings that indicate the classification of portions of information; and

(C) any incentives and penalties related to the proper classification of intelligence information; and

(2) ensure such training is a prerequisite, once completed successfully, as evidenced by an appropriate certificate or other record, for—

(A) obtaining original classification authority or derivatively classifying information; and

(B) maintaining such authority.

(b) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER PROGRAMS.—The head of each Executive agency shall ensure that the training required by subsection (a) is conducted efficiently and in conjunction with any other required security, intelligence, or other training programs to reduce the costs and administrative burdens associated with carrying out the training required by subsection (a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. HARMAN) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the motion to concur with

the Senate amendment to H.R. 553, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

For those who think nothing can happen in this very polarized year and toxic political environment, listen up. Congress is about to pass and send to the President H.R. 553, the Reducing Overclassification Act.

It has taken 3 long years to get to this point. After scores of hearings, the bill passed the House twice. The bill was amended by the Senate and finally passed that body yesterday.

H.R. 553 curbs overclassification, the practice of stamping intelligence “secret” for the wrong reasons, often to protect turf or avoid embarrassment. Overclassification prevents the sharing of accurate, actionable, and timely information horizontally across the government and vertically with State and local law enforcement. This is a problem now rampant throughout the intelligence community and one identified by the 9/11 Commission as a major obstacle in preventing future terror attacks.

To change the culture from “need to know” to “need to share,” H.R. 553:

Creates a Classified Information Advisory Officer to help State and local law enforcement and the private sector access intelligence and information about terror threats to their own communities.

It requires training and incentives to assure materials are classified for the right reason—to protect sources and methods. Mr. Speaker, it is no joke that people die and our ability to monitor certain targets can be compromised if sources and methods are revealed.

Third, the bill requires “portion marking” so it is easy to separate classified and nonclassified parts of a document and standardizes procedures so that information can be more easily shared.

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H.R. 553 also requires inspectors general of departments which classify information to issue reports and share them with any congressional committees which seek them.

Finally, it builds on the President’s executive order released last month and is widely supported by open government and law enforcement groups.

In conclusion, this bill will help first responders know what to look for and what to do. They, not any of us in Congress or an analyst sitting at a desk, will likely be the ones to uncover and foil the next terror plot.

My thanks to Chairman THOMPSON and Ranking Member KING and to Senators LIEBERMAN and COLLINS, who cleared the way for bill in the House and in the Senate. Also thanks to the hardworking staffs of the Senate and House Homeland Security Committees: Christian Beckner, Brandon Milhorn, Vance Serchuk and Rosaline Cohen, and to my own staffer, Meg King.

I urge prompt passage of this critical legislation, and hope our President will sign it into law as soon as possible.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 553, as amended by the Senate. This bill was agreed to by voice vote in the House on February 3, 2009, and on September 27, 2010, the bill passed the Senate with an amendment by unanimous consent.

The 9/11 Commission concluded that security requirements nurtured over-classification and excessive compartmentalization of information among government agencies. This stovepiping, so-to-speak, interferes with accurate, accountable, and timely information sharing, not only among Federal agencies, but also with State and local law enforcement.

H.R. 553 focuses on reducing the over-classification of information at the Department of Homeland Security and enhances understanding of the classification system by State, local, tribal, and private-sector partners.

The bill directs the Secretary of Homeland Security, DHS, operating through the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis, to identify and designate a classified information advisory officer. The advisory officer will assist State, local, tribal, and private-sector partners who have responsibility for the security of critical infrastructure in matters related to classified materials. Additionally, the office is charged with developing educational materials and training programs to assist these authorities in developing policies to respond to requests related to classified information.

The bill also requires the head of each Federal department or agency with classification authority to share intelligence products with interagency threat assessment and coordination groups and allows them in turn to recommend to the DHS Under Secretary For Intelligence and Analysis to disseminate that product to the appropriate State, local, or tribal entities. This will be critical in directing actionable intelligence into the hands of those who need it the most.

H.R. 553 also aims at strengthening the responsibilities of the Director of National Intelligence with respect to information sharing government-wide and reinforces the authority of DNI to have maximum access to all information within the intelligence community.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill. I congratulate Ms. HARMAN on this great bill that I wholeheartedly support, and I look forward to seeing it signed into law by the President, I hope very soon, just like Ms. HARMAN does.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HARMAN. I thank the gentleman for his remarks and am pleased that we have had this very polite and informative and bipartisan debate on the House floor.

Mr. Speaker, we have no more speakers. If the gentleman from Georgia has

no more speakers, then I am prepared to close after he closes.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to congratulate Ms. HARMAN. She and I worked together. We both have a strong interest in having a strong intelligence community, and I think both of us will agree that our intelligence community needs some help. But we have seen this over-classification of documents that has gotten to be a tremendous problem.

Ms. HARMAN has brought forth this piece of legislation that is going to help simplify the process and help our Federal Government to share information with the State, local, and tribal entities, as well as the private sector, so that they can have this information that they desperately need to be able to ensure security.

As an original-intent Constitutionalist, I believe that the major function of the Federal Government should be national security, national defense. We in Congress I think have overlooked that duty in many regards. I applaud Ms. HARMAN, Mr. Speaker, for her diligence in the area of intelligence and national security, and I greatly applaud her for this much-needed bill.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, so I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, police, firefighters and other first responders bravely put their lives on the line to protect us. They have proven their ability to unravel plots inside the U.S., like the Torrance, California, police department, which discovered a plot to attack military installations and religious sites in my district.

It is imperative that we give first responders and the public access to the threat information they need to find those among us who would seek to harm us. H.R. 553 ensures that. I urge its prompt passage, and I do hope that the President will sign it into law.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, over-classification of homeland security information is a major barrier to Federal efforts at fostering greater information sharing within the Federal Government as well as with State, local, and tribal entities, and the private sector.

H.R. 553, the Reducing Over-Classification Act, introduced by Congresswoman JANE HARMAN, tackles this practice in a comprehensive fashion. To that end, H.R. 553 establishes a Classified Information Advisory Officer within DHS's Office of Intelligence and Analysis to develop and disseminate educational materials for State, local, and tribal authorities and the private sector on how to challenge classification designations and, at the same time, assist with the security clearance process.

This bill also tackles the practice of over-classification within the larger Intelligence Community (IC) by directing the Director of National Intelligence to: take new, proactive, steps to promote appropriate access of information by Federal, State, local, and tribal governments with a need to know; issue guidance

to standardize, in appropriate cases, the formats for classified and unclassified products; establish policies and procedures requiring the increased use of so-called "tear lines" portion markings in intelligence products to foster broader distribution to State, local, and tribal law enforcement and others who need to access such information; and require annual training for each IC employee with the authority to classify material.

I am pleased that H.R. 553 also directs originators of intelligence products to share information that could likely benefit first preventers on the beat with the IC's in-house team of first preventer analysts—the "ITACG" or "Interagency Threat Assessment and Coordination Group."

The ITACG analysts have the boots-on-the-ground perspective on what information lends itself to cops on the beat. Through this new process, we will have a new mechanism to tackle the stovepiping of information within the IC that we know cops need to keep their communities secure.

Reducing the amount of unnecessary classification and increasing the amount of information shared throughout the public and private sectors will contribute to improving or ability to detect, deter, and prevent terrorist plots.

Nine years after the attacks of September 11th, we must stand together and reject—once and for all—the practice of over-classification, an outgrowth of the outdated "need to know" paradigm.

Finally, I would like to applaud the Chairwoman of my Committee's Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing, and Terrorism Risk Assessment Subcommittee—Representative HARMAN. She has worked on this problem for many years and is a true champion for all the "first preventers" out there that have been kept from accessing intelligence information that they need to protect the public and should be commended for her steadfast efforts on this government-wide challenge.

I urge my colleagues to support this important homeland security bill so that we get it to the President's desk for his signature.

Ms. HARMAN. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. HARMAN) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 553.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CHRISTOPHER BRYSKI STUDENT LOAN PROTECTION ACT

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5458) to amend the Truth in Lending Act and the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require additional disclosures and protections for students and cosigners with respect to student loans, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows: