

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 623

AN ACT

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Department of Homeland Security to establish a social media working group, 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 “Social Media Working
3 Group Act of 2015”.

4 **SEC. 2. SOCIAL MEDIA WORKING GROUP.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Homeland Secu-
6 rity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) is amended by
7 adding at the end the following new section:

8 **“SEC. 318. SOCIAL MEDIA WORKING GROUP.**

9 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
10 lish within the Department a social media working group
11 (in this section referred to as the ‘Group’).

12 “(b) PURPOSE.—In order to enhance information
13 sharing between the Department and appropriate stake-
14 holders, the Group shall provide guidance and best prac-
15 tices to the emergency preparedness and response commu-
16 nity on the use of social media technologies before, during,
17 and after a terrorist attack or other emergency.

18 “(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary for
20 Science and Technology shall serve as the permanent
21 chairperson of the Group, and shall designate, on a
22 rotating basis, a representative from a State or local
23 government who is a member of the Group to serve
24 as co-chairperson. The Under Secretary shall estab-
25 lish term limits for individuals appointed to the
26 Group pursuant to paragraph (2). Membership of

1 the Group shall be composed of a cross section of
2 subject matter experts from Federal, State, local,
3 tribal, and nongovernmental organization practi-
4 tioners, including representatives from the following
5 entities:

6 “(A) The Office of Public Affairs of the
7 Department.

8 “(B) The Office of the Chief Information
9 Officer of the Department.

10 “(C) The Privacy Office of the Depart-
11 ment.

12 “(D) The Federal Emergency Management
13 Agency.

14 “(E) The Office of Disability Integration
15 and Coordination of the Federal Emergency
16 Management Agency.

17 “(F) The American Red Cross.

18 “(G) The Forest Service.

19 “(H) The Centers for Disease Control and
20 Prevention.

21 “(I) The United States Geological Survey.

22 “(J) The National Oceanic and Atmos-
23 pheric Administration.

24 “(2) ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.—The Under Sec-
25 retary for Science and Technology shall appoint, on

1 a rotating basis, qualified individuals to the Group.
2 The total number of such additional members
3 shall—

4 “(A) be equal to or greater than the total
5 number of regular members under paragraph
6 (1); and

7 “(B) include—

8 “(i) not fewer than three representa-
9 tives from the private sector; and

10 “(ii) representatives from—

11 “(I) State, local, and tribal enti-
12 ties, including from—

13 “(aa) law enforcement;

14 “(bb) fire services;

15 “(cc) emergency manage-
16 ment; and

17 “(dd) public health entities;

18 “(II) universities and academia;

19 and

20 “(III) nonprofit disaster relief or-
21 ganizations.

22 “(d) CONSULTATION WITH NON-MEMBERS.—To the
23 extent practicable, the Group shall work with existing bod-
24 ies in the public and private sectors to carry out subsection
25 (b).

1 “(e) MEETINGS.—

2 “(1) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 90
3 days after the date of the enactment of this section,
4 the Group shall hold its initial meeting. Such initial
5 meeting may be held virtually.

6 “(2) SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS.—After the initial
7 meeting under paragraph (1), the Group shall meet
8 at least twice each year, or at the call of the Chair-
9 person. Such subsequent meetings may be held vir-
10 tually.

11 “(f) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FACCA.—The Federal
12 Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply
13 to the Group.

14 “(g) REPORTS.—Not later than March 30 of each
15 year, the Group shall submit to the appropriate congres-
16 sional committees a report that includes the following:

17 “(1) A review of current and emerging social
18 media technologies being used to support prepared-
19 ness and response activities related to terrorist at-
20 tacks and other emergencies.

21 “(2) A review of best practices and lessons
22 learned on the use of social media during the re-
23 sponse to terrorist attacks and other emergencies
24 that occurred during the period covered by the re-
25 port at issue.

1 “(3) Recommendations to improve the Depart-
2 ment’s use of social media for emergency manage-
3 ment purposes.

4 “(4) Recommendations to improve public
5 awareness of the type of information disseminated
6 through social media, and how to access such infor-
7 mation, during a terrorist attack or other emer-
8 gency.

9 “(5) Recommendations to improve information
10 sharing among the Department and its components.

11 “(6) Recommendations to improve information
12 sharing among State and local governments.

13 “(7) A review of available training for Federal,
14 State, local, and tribal officials on the use of social
15 media in response to a terrorist attack or other
16 emergency.

17 “(8) A summary of coordination efforts with
18 the private sector to discuss and resolve legal, oper-
19 ational, technical, privacy, and security concerns.”.

20 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
21 in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is

1 amended by inserting after the item relating to section
2 317 the following new item:

“Sec. 318. Social media working group.”.

Passed the House of Representatives February 2,
2015.

Attest:

Clerk.

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