

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1238

AN ACT

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for Health Affairs responsible for coordinating the efforts of the Department of Homeland Security related to food, agriculture, and veterinary defense against terrorism, 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 “Securing our Agri-
5 culture and Food Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. COORDINATION OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, AND VET-**
7 **ERINARY DEFENSE AGAINST TERRORISM.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the Homeland Security
9 Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 311 et seq.) is amended by adding
10 at the end the following new section:

11 **“SEC. 528. COORDINATION OF DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND**
12 **SECURITY EFFORTS RELATED TO FOOD, AG-**
13 **RICULTURE, AND VETERINARY DEFENSE**
14 **AGAINST TERRORISM.**

15 “(a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—The Secretary, acting
16 through the Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs, shall
17 carry out a program to coordinate the Department’s ef-
18 forts related to defending the food, agriculture, and veteri-
19 nary systems of the United States against terrorism and
20 other high-consequence events that pose a high risk to
21 homeland security.

22 “(b) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—The coordination pro-
23 gram required by subsection (a) shall include, at a min-
24 imum, the following:

1 “(1) Providing oversight and management of
2 the Department’s responsibilities pursuant to Home-
3 land Security Presidential Directive 9–Defense of
4 United States Agriculture and Food.

5 “(2) Providing oversight and integration of the
6 Department’s activities related to veterinary public
7 health, food defense, and agricultural security.

8 “(3) Leading the Department’s policy initiatives
9 relating to food, animal, and agricultural incidents,
10 and the impact of such incidents on animal and pub-
11 lic health.

12 “(4) Leading the Department’s policy initiatives
13 relating to overall domestic preparedness for and col-
14 lective response to agricultural terrorism.

15 “(5) Coordinating with other Department com-
16 ponents, including U.S. Customs and Border Protec-
17 tion, as appropriate, on activities related to food and
18 agriculture security and screening procedures for do-
19 mestic and imported products.

20 “(6) Coordinating with appropriate Federal de-
21 partments and agencies.

22 “(7) Other activities as determined necessary
23 by the Secretary.

24 “(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
25 tion may be construed as altering or superseding the au-

1 thority of the Secretary of Agriculture relating to food and
2 agriculture.”.

3 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
4 in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is
5 amended by inserting after the item relating to section
6 527 the following new item:

“Sec. 528. Coordination of Department of Homeland Security efforts related to
food, agriculture, and veterinary defense against terrorism.”.

Passed the House of Representatives March 22,
2017.

Attest:

Clerk.

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