

H.R. 2390
THE “HOMELAND SECURITY UNIVERSITY-BASED CENTERS REVIEW ACT”

SECTION BY SECTION

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE

The “Homeland Security University Based Center Review Act”

SEC. 2. REVIEW OF UNIVERSITY-BASED CENTERS

- (a) Requires the Comptroller General to initiate a study to assess the Department of Homeland Security’s university-based centers (Centers of Excellence) and provide recommendations to the House Committee on Homeland Security and Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs for appropriate improvements.
- (b) The study shall include:
- (1) a review of the Department’s efforts to identify areas of study needed to support the homeland security mission, and criteria used to determine which areas the Department should maintain, establish, or eliminate university-based centers;
 - (2) a review of the method of how university-based centers, federally funded research and development centers, and Department of Energy national laboratories receive tasking from the Department, and how university-based research is identified, prioritized, and funded;
 - (3) a review of selection criteria and weighting of such criteria;
 - (4) an examination of best practices from other agencies efforts to organize and use university-based research;
 - (5) a review of the Department’s criteria and metrics to measure progress achieved by university-based centers in fulfilling tasks, and mechanisms for delivering the research results of the centers within the Department and to other Federal, State, and local agencies;
 - (6) an examination of how other academic institutions not associated with the designated university-based centers can contribute to the research mission of the Directorate of Science and Technology of the Department;
 - (7) an assessment of the interrelationship and collaboration between the different university-based centers and the degree to which these collaborations are encouraged by the Department, particularly with Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other minority serving institutions; and
 - (8) a review of any other essential elements of the programs.
- (c) Updates existing annual reporting requirements for the Secretary on Centers of Excellence activities to include information on designated university-based centers, how they enhance homeland security, information on any decisions to revoke or modify designations, research tasked and completed by each designated center, funding provided for each center, and plans for utilization of each center in the forthcoming year.