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[Report No. 116-280]

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 10, 2019

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

October 19, 2020

Reported by Mr. JOHNSON, with an amendment [Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

AN ACT

- To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make certain improvements in the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties of the Department of Homeland Security, 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 "Department of Home-

5 land Security Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Au-

6 thorization Act".

1 SEC. 2. OFFICER FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES. 2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 705 of the Homeland Se-3 curity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 345) is amended-4 (1) in the section heading, by striking "ESTAB-5 LISHMENT OF"; and 6 (2) by striking subsections (a) and (b) and in-7 serting the following new subsections: 8 "(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established within the 9 Department an Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. The head of such Office is the Officer for Civil Rights 10 and Civil Liberties, who shall report directly to the See-11 12 retary. **Responsibilities.**—The Officer for Civil 13 "(h) Rights and Civil Liberties shall carry out the following re-14 sponsibilities: 15 16 "(1) Oversee compliance with constitutional, 17 statutory, regulatory, policy, and other requirements 18 relating to the civil rights and civil liberties of indi-19 viduals affected by the programs and activities of 20 the Department. 21 "(2) Integrate civil rights and civil liberties pro-22 tections into all programs and activities of the De-23 partment. 24 "(3) Conduct civil rights and civil liberties im-25 pact assessments, as appropriate, including prior to

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1	the implementation of new Department regulations,
2	initiatives, programs, or policies.
3	"(4) Conduct periodic reviews of policies, proce-
4	dures, and activities of the Department relating to
5	civil rights and civil liberties.
6	"(5) Provide policy advice, recommendations,
7	and other technical assistance relating to civil rights
8	and civil liberties to the Secretary and to heads of
9	components, directorates, and offices and other per-
10	sonnel within the Department.
11	"(6) Review, assess, and investigate complaints,
12	including complaints filed by members of the public,
13	and information indicating possible abuses of civil
14	rights or civil liberties at the Department, unless the
15	Inspector General of the Department determines
16	that any such complaint should be investigated by
17	the Inspector General.
18	"(7) Initiate reviews, investigations, and assess-
19	ments of the administration of the programs and ac-
20	tivities by the Department relating to civil rights
21	and civil liberties, as the Officer determines nee-
22	essary.
23	"(8) Coordinate with the Privacy Officer to en-
24	sure that—

1	"(A) programs, policies, and procedures in-
2	volving civil rights, civil liberties, and privacy
3	considerations are addressed in an integrated
4	and comprehensive manner; and
5	"(B) Congress receives appropriate reports
6	regarding such programs, policies, and proce-
7	dures.
8	${}$ (9) Lead the equal employment opportunity
9	programs of the Department, including complaint
10	management and adjudication, workforce diversity,
11	and promotion of the merit system principles.
12	"(10) Make publicly available through acces-
13	sible communications channels, including the website
14	of the Department—
15	"(A) information on the responsibilities
16	and functions of, and how to contact, the Of-
17	fice;
18	"(B) summary of reports of investigations
19	that result in final recommendations that are
20	issued by the Officer upon completion of inves-
21	tigations carried out pursuant to paragraph (6);
22	and
23	"(C) summaries of impact assessments
24	issued by the Officer and carried out pursuant
25	to paragraph (3) or (7).

1 "(11) Engage with individuals and communities 2 whose civil rights and civil liberties may be affected 3 by programs and activities of the Department, in-4 eluding by informing such individuals and commu-5 nities about report and redress processes and advis-6 ing the Secretary and heads of components, direc-7 torates, offices, and other personnel within the De-8 partment of concerns raised by such individuals and 9 communities. "(c) COORDINATION WITH INSPECTOR GENERAL. 10

11 <u>"(1)</u> AUTHORITY TO INVESTIGATE POSSIBLE
12 ABUSES.—The Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Lib13 erties may investigate any matter referred to in
14 paragraph (6) or (7) of subsection (b) after fulfilling
15 the coordination requirements under paragraph (2)
16 with respect to such matter.

17 <u>"(2) COORDINATION REQUIREMENTS.</u>

18 "(A) REFERRAL OF MATTERS TO INSPEC19 TOR GENERAL.—Before initiating any investiga20 tion described under paragraph (1), the Officer
21 for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties shall refer
22 the matter and all related complaints to the In23 spector General of the Department.

24 ^{"(B)} INSPECTOR GENERAL RESPONSIBIL-25 ITTES.—

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1	"(i) DETERMINATION AND NOTIFICA-
2	TION.—Not later than 5 business days
3	after the receipt of a matter referred under
4	subparagraph (A), the Inspector General
5	shall—
6	"(I) make a determination re-
7	garding whether the Inspector Gen-
8	eral intends to initiate an audit or in-
9	vestigation of the matter referred
10	under subparagraph (A); and
11	${}$ (II) notify the Officer of such
12	determination.
13	"(ii) AUDITS AND INVESTIGATIONS.—
14	If the Inspector General notifies the Offi-
15	eer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties that
16	the Inspector General intends to initiate an
17	audit or investigation, the Inspector Gen-
18	eral shall—
19	"(I) initiate such audit or inves-
20	tigate by not later than 90 days after
21	providing such notification; or
22	${}$ (II) not later than 3 days after
23	the end of the 90-day period specified
24	in subclause (I), notify the Officer

	·
1	that such audit or investigation was
2	not initiated.
3	"(C) Provision of Assistance. At the
4	request of the Inspector General, the Officer for
5	Civil Rights and Civil Liberties may provide as-
6	sistance to the Inspector General on any inves-
7	tigation or audit initiated by the Inspector Gen-
8	eral based on a referral under subparagraph
9	(Λ) .
10	"(D) INVESTIGATION BY OFFICER.—The
11	Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties may
12	investigate a matter referred to the Inspector
13	General under subparagraph (A) only if—
14	"(i) the Inspector General notifies the
15	Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
16	that the Inspector General does not intend
17	to initiate an audit or investigation relat-
18	ing to that matter; or
19	"(ii) the Inspector General provides
20	notification under subparagraph (B)(ii)(II)
21	that an audit or investigation was not initi-
22	ated.
23	"(d) TRANSPARENCY.—
24	"(1) Complaints.—In the case of a complaint
25	made concerning allegations of abuses of civil rights

3 shall—	1	and civil liberties under paragraph (6) of subsection
	2	(b), the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
4 (A) provide to the individual who ma	3	shall—
	4	${(A)}$ provide to the individual who made

the complaint notice of the receipt of such complaint within 30 days of receiving the complaint; and

8 "(B) inform the complainant of the deter-9 mination of the Officer regarding the initiation 10 of a review, assessment, or investigation within 11 the Office, a referral to the Inspector General 12 of the Department, or any other action taken. 13 "(2) INVESTIGATIONS.—In the case of an inves-14 tigation initiated by the Officer pursuant to para-15 graph (6) or (7) of subsection (b), upon the conclu-16 sion of the investigation, the Officer shall produce a 17 report on the investigation which-

18 <u>"(A) shall include the findings and rec</u>19 ommendations of the Officer;

20 "(B) a summary of which shall be made
21 publicly available;

22 "(C) shall not include any personally iden23 tifiable information related to any individual in24 volved in such investigation; and

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1	"(D) may include a classified appendix, as
2	the Officer determines appropriate.
3	${}$ (3) Submittal to heads of operational
4	COMPONENTS.—The Officer shall transmit a copy of
5	each report produced under paragraph (2) to the
6	Secretary and to the relevant head of each relevant
7	operational component of the Department.
8	"(4) Reports to congress.—Upon the con-
9	elusion of any investigation conducted by the Officer
10	for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties under paragraph
11	(6) or (7) of subsection (b) , the Officer shall submit
12	to Congress a report on the investigation, which
13	shall be prepared and submitted without any prior
14	comment or amendment by the Secretary, Deputy
15	Secretary, or any other officer or employee of the
16	Department, unless the Officer seeks such comment.
17	"(e) Component Civil Rights and Civil Lib-
18	ERTIES OFFICER.—The head of each of the operational
19	components of the Department shall designate a career
20	appointee (as such term is defined in section 3132 of title
21	5, United States Code) from such component as the Offi-
22	cer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties of that component.
23	The Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties of each
24	such component shall coordinate with and provide infor-
25	mation to the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties

of the Department on matters related to civil rights and
 civil liberties within the components.

3 <u>"(f) ACCESS TO INFORMATION.</u> The Officer for Civil
4 Rights and Civil Liberties of the Department—

5 ⁽⁽¹⁾ shall have access to all records, reports, 6 audits, reviews, documents, papers, recommenda-7 tions, and other materials available to the Depart-8 ment that relate to programs and operations with 9 respect to the responsibilities of the Officer under 10 subsection (b); and

11 <u>"(2) may, to the extent the Officer determines</u>
 12 necessary, and subject to the approval of the Sec 13 retary—

14 "(A) issue a subpoena to require the pro-15 duction, by any person other than a Federal 16 agency, of all information, documents, reports, 17 answers, records, accounts, papers, and other 18 documentary evidence necessary in the perform-19 ance of the responsibilities of the Officer under 20 this section; and

21 "(B) administer to or take from any per 22 son an oath, affirmation, or affidavit, whenever
 23 necessary in the performance of the responsibil 24 ities of the Officer under this section.

1 "(g) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than March 31 of each year, the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties 2 of the Department shall submit directly to the President, 3 4 the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of 5 Representatives, and the appropriate committees and subcommittees of Congress, a report on the implementation 6 7 of this section during the year preceding the year during 8 which the report is submitted. Each such report shall in-9 elude, for the year covered by the report—

10 <u>"(1) any allegations of abuse described under</u> 11 subsection (b)(6) and any actions by the Depart-12 ment or a component, directorate, or office of the 13 Department that the Officer identifies as responsive 14 to such allegations;

15 "(2) a list of Department programs and activi-16 ties for which civil rights and civil liberties impact 17 assessments were conducted, or policy advice, rec-18 ommendations, or other technical assistance was 19 provided;

20 "(3) any recommendations issued by the Officer
21 to the Secretary or the head of a component, direc22 torate, or office, together with information on the
23 status of the implementation of such recommenda24 tions;

1	"(4) information on the diversity and equal em-
2	ployment opportunity activities of the Department,
3	including information on complaint management and
4	adjudication of equal employment opportunity com-
5	plaints and efforts to ensure compliance throughout
6	the Department with equal employment opportunity
7	requirements;
8	${(5)}$ a description of any efforts to engage with
9	individuals and communities whose civil rights and
10	eivil liberties may be affected by activities carried
11	out by the Department, including public meetings;
12	and
13	${}$ (6) information on total staffing for the Office
14	of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, including—
15	${(A)}$ the number of full-time, part-time
16	and contract support personnel; and
17	"(B) information on the number of em-
18	ployees whose primary responsibilities include
19	supporting the Officer in carrying out para-
20	graph (9) of subsection (b).".
21	(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The item relating to
22	section 705 in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act

23 of 2002 is amended to read as follows:

 1 "SEC. 705. OFFICER FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIB

 2
 ERTIES.".

3 SEC. 3. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW.

4 Not later than 180 days after the date of the enact5 ment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United
6 States shall submit to Congress a report on subsection
7 (b)(11) of section 705 of the Homeland Security Act of
8 2002 (6 U.S.C. 345), as amended by section 2.

9 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

10 This Act may be cited as the "Department of Home11 land Security Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
12 Authorization Act".

13 SEC. 2. OFFICER FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 705 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 345) is amended—

16 (1) in the section heading, by striking "ESTAB17 LISHMENT OF"; and

18 (2) by striking subsections (a) and (b) and in-

19 serting the following new subsections:

20 "(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established within the De21 partment an Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. The

22 head of such Office is the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil

23 Liberties (referred to in this section as the 'Officer'), who

24 shall report directly to the Secretary.

25 "(b) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Officer shall carry out
26 the following responsibilities:

2statutory, regulatory, policy, and other requirements3relating to the civil rights and civil liberties of indi-4viduals affected by the programs and activities of the5Department.6"(2) Integrate civil rights and civil liberties pro-7tections into all programs and activities of the De-8partment.9"(3) Conduct civil rights and civil liberties im-10pact assessments, including, as appropriate, prior to11the implementation of new Department regulations,12initiatives, programs, or policies.13"(4) Conduct periodic reviews and assessments of14policies, procedures, and activities of the Department15relating to civil rights and civil liberties, including16reviews initiated by the Officer.17"(5) Provide policy advice, recommendations,18and other technical assistance relating to civil rights19and civil liberties to the Secretary and to heads of20components, directorates, and offices and other per-21sonnel within the Department.22"(6) Review, assess, and investigate complaints,23including complaints filed by members of the public,24and information indicating possible abuses of civil25rights or civil liberties at the Department, unless the	1	"(1) Oversee compliance with constitutional,
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	23	including complaints filed by members of the public,
25 rights or civil liberties at the Department, unless the	24	and information indicating possible abuses of civil
	25	rights or civil liberties at the Department, unless the

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1	Inspector General of the Department determines that
2	any such complaint should be investigated by the In-
3	spector General.
4	"(7) As the Officer determines necessary, initiate
5	reviews, investigations, and assessments of the admin-
6	istration of the programs and activities of the Depart-
7	ment relating to civil rights and civil liberties.
8	"(8) Coordinate with the Privacy Officer to en-
9	sure that—
10	"(A) programs, policies, and procedures in-
11	volving civil rights, civil liberties, and privacy
12	considerations are addressed in an integrated
13	and comprehensive manner; and
14	"(B) Congress receives appropriate reports
15	regarding such programs, policies, and proce-
16	dures.
17	"(9) Lead the equal employment opportunity
18	programs of the Department, including complaint
19	management and adjudication, workforce diversity,
20	and promotion of the merit system principles.
21	"(10) On a semi-annual basis, make publicly
22	available through accessible communications channels,
23	including the website of the Department—
24	"(A) information on the responsibilities and
25	functions of, and how to contact, the Office;

"(B) summaries of the investigations car-1 2 ried out pursuant to paragraph (6) that result in final recommendations that are issued by the 3 Officer ; and 4 5 "(C) summaries of impact assessments car-6 ried out pursuant to paragraph (3) or (7) that 7 are issued by the Officer. "(11) Engage with individuals and communities 8 9 whose civil rights and civil liberties may be affected 10 by programs and activities of the Department, includ-11 ing by informing such individuals and communities 12 about report and redress processes and advising the Secretary and heads of components, directorates, and 13 14 offices and other personnel within the Department of 15 concerns raised by such individuals and communities. 16 "(12) Lead the Language Access Program for the 17 Department to ensure the Department can effectively 18 communicate with all individuals impacted by pro-19 grams and activities of the Department, including 20 those with limited English proficiency. 21 "(c) TRANSPARENCY.— 22 "(1) COMPLAINTS.—In the case of a complaint 23 made concerning allegations of abuses of civil rights 24 and civil liberties under paragraph (6) of subsection

25 (b), the Officer shall—

- "(A) provide to the individual who made 1 2 the complaint notice of the receipt of such complaint within 30 days of receiving the complaint; 3 4 and 5 "(B) inform the complainant of the deter-6 mination of the Officer regarding the initiation 7 of a review, assessment, or investigation within 8 the Office, a referral to the Inspector General of 9 the Department, or any other action taken. 10 "(2) INVESTIGATIONS.—In the case of an inves-11 tigation initiated by the Officer pursuant to para-12 graph (6) or (7) of subsection (b) in which findings 13 or recommendations are issued, the Officer— 14 "(A) shall, on a semi-annual basis, make 15 publicly available through accessible communications channels, including the website of the De-16 17 partment— 18 "(i) the findings and recommendations 19 of the Officer, if any; and "(ii) a summary of the investigations 20 21 that result in final recommendations that 22 are issued by the Officer; and 23 "(B) shall not include in such findings, rec-
- 24 ommendations, or summary any personally

1	identifiable information related to any indi-
2	vidual involved in such investigation.
3	"(3) SUBMITTAL TO HEADS OF OPERATIONAL
4	COMPONENTS.—The Officer shall transmit a copy of
5	each summary produced under paragraph (2) to the
6	Secretary and to the head of each relevant operational
7	component of the Department.
8	"(4) Reports to congress.—Upon the conclu-
9	sion of any investigation conducted by the Officer
10	under paragraph (6) or (7) of subsection (b) in which
11	findings or recommendations are issued, the Officer
12	shall submit to Congress a report on the investigation,
13	which shall be prepared and submitted without any
14	prior comment or amendment by the Secretary, Dep-
15	uty Secretary, or any other officer or employee of the
16	Department or the Office of Management and Budget,
17	unless the Officer seeks such comment.
18	"(d) Component Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
19	Officer.—The head of each of the operational components
20	of the Department, in consultation with the Officer, shall
21	designate a career appointee (as such term is defined in
22	section 3132 of title 5, United States Code) from such com-
23	ponent as the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties
20	ponenti as the Officer for Creat Inghis and Creat Interfiles

24 of that component. The Officer for Civil Rights and Civil

25 Liberties of each such component shall coordinate with and

provide information to the Officer for Civil Rights and
 Civil Liberties of the Department on matters related to civil
 rights and civil liberties within the component.

4 "(e) Access to Information.—The Officer—

5 "(1) shall have access in a timely manner to all
6 records, reports, audits, reviews, documents, papers,
7 recommendations, and other materials available to the
8 Department that relate to programs and operations
9 with respect to the responsibilities of the Officer under
10 subsection (b); and

11 "(2) may, to the extent the Officer determines 12 necessary, and subject to the approval of the Sec-13 retary, administer to or take from any person an 14 oath, affirmation, or affidavit, whenever necessary in 15 the performance of the responsibilities of the Officer 16 under this section.

"(f) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than March 31 of
each year, the Officer shall submit to the appropriate committees and subcommittees of Congress a report on the implementation of this section during the year preceding the
year during which the report is submitted. Each such report
shall include, for the year covered by the report—

23 "(1) a list of Department programs and activi24 ties for which civil rights and civil liberties impact
25 assessments were conducted, or policy advice, rec-

ommendations, or other technical assistance was pro vided;

3 "(2) a list of Department programs and activi-4 ties relating to civil rights and civil liberties that 5 have not had impact assessments conducted during 6 the 5-year period ending on the date of enactment of 7 the Department of Homeland Security Office of Civil 8 *Rights and Civil Liberties Authorization Act:* 9 "(3) an assessment of the efforts of the Depart-10 ment through the Language Access Program to effectively communicate with all individuals impacted by 11 12 programs and activities of the Department, including 13 those with limited English proficiency; 14 "(4) a summary of investigations resulting in 15 recommendations issued under paragraph (6) or (7) 16 of subsection (b) by the Officer to the Secretary or the 17 head of a component, directorate, or office, together 18 with information on the status of the component, di-19 rectorate, or office's implementation of such rec-20 ommendations:

21 "(5) information on the diversity and equal em-22 ployment opportunity activities of the Department, 23 including information on complaint management and 24 adjudication of equal employment opportunity com-25 plaints and efforts to ensure compliance throughout

1	the Department with equal employment opportunity
2	requirements;
3	"(6) a description of any efforts to engage with
4	individuals and communities whose civil rights and
5	civil liberties may be affected by activities carried out
6	by the Department, including public meetings; and
7	"(7) information on total staffing for the Office
8	for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, including—
9	"(A) the number of full-time, part-time and
10	contract support personnel; and
11	"(B) information on the number of employ-
12	ees whose primary responsibilities include sup-
13	porting the Officer in carrying out paragraph
14	(9) of subsection (b).".
15	(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The item relating to sec-
16	tion 705 in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of
17	2002 is amended to read as follows:
	"Sec. 705. Officer for civil rights and civil liberties.".
18	(c) Reporting to Congress.—Section
19	1062(f)(1)(A)(i) of the National Security Intelligence Re-
20	form Act of 2004 (42 U.S.C. 2000 $ee-1(f)(1)(A)(i)$) is
21	amended by striking "the Committee on Oversight and Gov-
22	ernment Reform of the House of Representatives" and in-
23	serting "the Committee on Homeland Security of the House
24	of Representatives, the Committee on Oversight and Reform
25	of the House of Representatives".

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1 SEC. 3. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW.

Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment
of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States
shall submit to Congress a report on the implementation
of subsection (b)(11) of section 705 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 345), as amended by section 2.

Calendar No. 574

¹¹⁶TH CONGRESS H. R. 4713

[Report No. 116–280]

AN ACT

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make certain improvements in the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

October 19, 2020

Reported with an amendment