

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8045

To require the Department of Homeland Security to develop a threat assessment on the potential homeland security vulnerabilities associated with genome modification and editing, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 14, 2020

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. TRONE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To require the Department of Homeland Security to develop a threat assessment on the potential homeland security vulnerabilities associated with genome modification and editing, 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 “Genome Editing
5 Threat Assessment Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. GENOME EDITING THREAT ASSESSMENT.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
8 date of the enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary

1 for the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office
2 of the Department of Homeland Security, in coordination
3 with the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis of
4 the Department, the Under Secretary for the Science and
5 Technology Directorate of the Department, and other
6 Federal partners, as appropriate, shall develop a threat
7 assessment on the potential homeland security
8 vulnerabilities associated with genome modification and
9 editing. Such threat assessment shall include information
10 relating to the following:

11 (1) The dual-use of emerging biotechnology.

12 (2) The ability of gene editing to maliciously
13 proliferate infectious diseases and pandemics on
14 human, animal, and plant populations.

15 (3) The cybersecurity vulnerabilities in com-
16 puter systems analyzing genomic data.

17 (4) Privacy concerns associated with analyzing
18 genomic data.

19 (b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Upon completion of the
20 threat assessment required under subsection (a), the Sec-
21 retary of Homeland Security shall make a determination
22 if any changes to future operations of the Department of
23 Homeland Security are required to address security
24 vulnerabilities identified in such assessment.

1 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the com-
2 pletion of the threat assessment required under subsection
3 (a), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall, consistent
4 with the protection of classified information, report to the
5 Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Rep-
6 resentatives and the Committee on Homeland Security
7 and Governmental Affairs of the Senate on the findings
8 of such threat assessment, any identified recommenda-
9 tions, plans for incorporating such recommendations into
10 future operations of the Department of Homeland Secu-
11 rity, and any proposed legislative changes informed by
12 such threat assessment.

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