

# Union Calendar No. 180

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 1608

[Report No. 119-222]

To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to produce a report on emerging threats and countermeasures related to vehicular terrorism, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 26, 2025

Mr. GIMENEZ (for himself and Mr. GREEN of Tennessee) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

AUGUST 8, 2025

Additional sponsor: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana

AUGUST 8, 2025

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italie*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on February 26, 2025]

# **A BILL**

To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to produce a report on emerging threats and countermeasures related to vehicular 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 “Department of Home-*  
5 *land Security Vehicular Terrorism Prevention and Mitiga-*  
6 *tion Act of 2025”.*

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 *Congress finds the following:*

9 *(1) On January 1, 2025, a devastating vehicular*  
10 *terrorist attack occurred on Bourbon Street in New*  
11 *Orleans, Louisiana, when an assailant inspired by*  
12 *the Islamic State drove a vehicle into a crowd and*  
13 *engaged in a shootout with law enforcement. This*  
14 *tragic incident resulted in the loss of 14 lives and in-*  
15 *juries to at least thirty-five others, including two po-*  
16 *lice officers.*

17 *(2) Vehicle-ramming attacks and other vehicular*  
18 *terrorist incidents represent an enduring and evolving*  
19 *threat to public safety in the United States and*  
20 *around the world, targeting innocent civilians and*  
21 *first responders.*

22 *(3) These attacks, carried out by both organized*  
23 *terrorist groups and individual actors, often aim to*  
24 *exploit high-density public gatherings, critical infra-*

1 *structure, and key transportation hubs, causing mass*  
2 *casualties and widespread disruption.*

3 *(4) Emerging automotive technologies, such as*  
4 *autonomous vehicles, Advanced Driver Assistance*  
5 *System (ADAS) capabilities, and ride-sharing plat-*  
6 *forms, create new vulnerabilities that could be lever-*  
7 *aged by malicious actors to conduct sophisticated ve-*  
8 *hicle-based attacks.*

9 *(5) The Department of Homeland Security,*  
10 *through agencies like the Transportation Security Ad-*  
11 *ministration and the Cybersecurity and Infrastruc-*  
12 *ture Security Agency, plays a vital role in detecting,*  
13 *assessing, and mitigating the risks associated with ve-*  
14 *hicle-based threats.*

15 *(6) Strengthened coordination between Federal,*  
16 *State, local, Tribal, territorial, and private sector*  
17 *stakeholders is essential to enhance prevention, pre-*  
18 *paredness, and response efforts, ensuring the safety of*  
19 *communities across the nation.*

20 **SEC. 3. REPORT ON EMERGING THREATS AND COUNTER-**  
21 **MEASURES RELATED TO VEHICULAR TER-**  
22 **RORISM.**

23 *(a) REPORT.—*

24 *(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after*  
25 *the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of*

1 *Homeland Security, in coordination with the Admin-*  
2 *istrator of the Transportation Security Administra-*  
3 *tion and the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infra-*  
4 *structure Security Agency, shall submit to the appro-*  
5 *priate congressional committees a report on the De-*  
6 *partment of Homeland Security's efforts to prevent,*  
7 *deter, and respond to vehicular terrorism.*

8 (2) *ELEMENTS.*—*The report under paragraph*  
9 *(1) shall include the following:*

10 (A) *An assessment of the current and*  
11 *emerging threats posed by vehicular terrorism, as*  
12 *well as the following:*

13 (i) *An analysis of the methods, tactics,*  
14 *and motivations used by perpetrators of ve-*  
15 *hicular terrorism.*

16 (ii) *An evaluation of domestic and*  
17 *international trends in vehicular terrorism.*

18 (iii) *An identification of potential fu-*  
19 *ture threats related to the misuse of con-*  
20 *nected or autonomous vehicles, Advanced*  
21 *Driver Assistance System (ADAS)*  
22 *-equipped vehicles, ride-sharing services,*  
23 *and advancements in automotive tech-*  
24 *nologies, including cybersecurity threats to*  
25 *underlying software technologies (including*

1                   *artificial intelligence-enabled technologies)*  
2                   *powering autonomous vehicles.*

3                   *(B) A review of higher-risk locations and*  
4                   *events that may be vulnerable to vehicular ter-*  
5                   *rorism, including the following:*

6                                 *(i) Critical infrastructure sites such as*  
7                                 *the following:*

8   *(I) Airports.*

9   *(II) Seaports.*

10                                        *(III) Federal, State, local, Tribal,*  
11                                        *and territorial government facilities.*

12                                        *(IV) Power plants.*

13                                        *(V) Substations.*

14                                        *(VI) Oil refineries.*

15                                        *(VII) Public transportation hubs.*

16                                        *(VIII) Healthcare facilities.*

17                                        *(ii) Soft-targets and crowded spaces,*  
18                                        *including mass gatherings and widely at-*  
19                                        *tended events such as parades, concerts,*  
20                                        *sporting events, political rallies, holiday*  
21                                        *markets, places of worship, public dem-*  
22                                        *onstrations, and ceremonial events.*

23                                        *(iii) High-density urban areas with*  
24                                        *limited physical security measures such as*  
25                                        *pedestrianized city centers, commercial dis-*

1            *tricts, residential neighborhoods, public*  
2            *parks, recreational areas, educational insti-*  
3            *tutions, and tourist destinations.*

4            *(C) A comprehensive summary of actions*  
5            *taken by the Department of Homeland Security,*  
6            *the Transportation Security Administration,*  
7            *and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Secu-*  
8            *rity Agency to research measures that prevent,*  
9            *deter, and respond to vehicular terrorism, in-*  
10           *cluding the following:*

11                    *(i) The identification and coordination*  
12                    *with State, local, Tribal, and territorial*  
13                    *governments and industry partners for the*  
14                    *strategic placement of physical barriers,*  
15                    *bollards, and other protective infrastructure*  
16                    *at higher-risk locations.*

17                    *(ii) The research, testing, and deploy-*  
18                    *ment of geofencing, surveillance systems, cy-*  
19                    *bersecurity measures, and other technologies*  
20                    *designed to monitor, restrict, and manage*  
21                    *vehicle access to such higher-risk locations.*

22                    *(iii) The creation of real-time response*  
23                    *strategies and operational plans to neu-*  
24                    *tralize vehicular terrorism, including ongo-*  
25                    *ing research into best practices for threat*

1                    *detection, incident management, and threat*  
2                    *containment.*

3                    *(D) An evaluation of the Department's en-*  
4                    *gagement with private and public sector stake-*  
5                    *holders to address risks of vehicular terrorism,*  
6                    *including the following:*

7                    *(i) Collaboration with vehicle rental*  
8                    *companies, ride-sharing platforms, vendors*  
9                    *of connected, autonomous, and ADAS tech-*  
10                   *nologies, freight operators, and automotive*  
11                   *manufacturers.*

12                   *(ii) Development of industry-specific*  
13                   *best practices to prevent the misuse of vehi-*  
14                   *cles.*

15                   *(iii) Protocols for sharing threat intel-*  
16                   *ligence and security guidance with private*  
17                   *sector partners.*

18                   *(E) A description of the Department's co-*  
19                   *ordination efforts with Federal, State, local,*  
20                   *Tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies*  
21                   *to prevent vehicular terrorism, including the fol-*  
22                   *lowing:*

23                   *(i) Mechanisms for sharing threat in-*  
24                   *telligence and situational awareness.*

1                   (ii) Guidance provided to such law en-  
2                   forcement agencies regarding implementing  
3                   countermeasures, such as traffic control  
4                   measures and rapid vehicle containment  
5                   protocols.

6                   (iii) Joint exercises and training pro-  
7                   grams to enhance interagency preparedness  
8                   and response.

9                   (iv) Efforts to equip law enforcement,  
10                  first responders, and private sector partners  
11                  with the knowledge and skills to recognize  
12                  and respond to vehicular terrorism, includ-  
13                  ing the development of specialized curricula  
14                  addressing emerging threats, such as con-  
15                  nected or autonomous vehicles and other ad-  
16                  vanced technologies.

17                  (v) Outreach efforts to ensure that  
18                  smaller jurisdictions have access to nec-  
19                  essary training resources and public safety  
20                  awareness tools.

21                  (F) Recommendations for the research, de-  
22                  velopment, and deployment of technologies to de-  
23                  tect, deter, and mitigate vehicular terrorism, in-  
24                  cluding the following:

1                   (i) *Vehicle immobilization systems and*  
2                   *remote disablement technologies.*

3                   (ii) *Predictive analytics and threat de-*  
4                   *tection software that incorporate artificial*  
5                   *intelligence and machine learning algo-*  
6                   *rithms to identify and flag in real time*  
7                   *anomalous or suspicious vehicle behavior, as*  
8                   *well as associated technologies to disable or*  
9                   *divert a vehicle before it becomes a threat.*

10                  (iii) *Innovations in cybersecurity to*  
11                  *prevent the hacking or misuse of connected,*  
12                  *autonomous, or ADAS-equipped vehicles.*

13                  (G) *A description of the Department's en-*  
14                  *gagement with privacy, civil rights, and civil*  
15                  *liberties stakeholders to ensure all counter-*  
16                  *measures and technologies, including artificial-*  
17                  *intelligence and machine learning algorithms,*  
18                  *deployed to prevent vehicular terrorism are im-*  
19                  *plemented in a manner that respects individual*  
20                  *rights and freedoms.*

21                  (H) *A review of the Department's public*  
22                  *awareness initiatives focused on the following:*

23                         (i) *Educating the public on recog-*  
24                         *nizing suspicious vehicle-related behavior*  
25                         *and reporting potential threats.*

1                   (ii) *Building trust and fostering col-*  
2                   *laboration between communities and law*  
3                   *enforcement agencies.*

4                   (iii) *Enhancing resilience by encour-*  
5                   *aging community-based security measures.*

6                   (I) *Such other elements as the Secretary of*  
7                   *Homeland Security considers appropriate.*

8                   (3) *FORM.—The report under paragraph (1)*  
9                   *shall be submitted in classified form, but may include*  
10                  *an unclassified executive summary.*

11                  (4) *PUBLICATION.—The unclassified executive*  
12                  *summary of the report required under paragraph (1)*  
13                  *shall be published on a publicly accessible website of*  
14                  *the Department of Homeland Security.*

15                  (b) *BRIEFING.—Not later than 30 days after the sub-*  
16                  *mission of the report under subsection (a), the Secretary*  
17                  *of Homeland Security shall provide to the appropriate con-*  
18                  *gressional committees a briefing on the findings, conclu-*  
19                  *sions, and recommendations of such report.*

20                  (c) *DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

21                   (1) *APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-*  
22                   *TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional commit-*  
23                   *tees” means—*

24                                 (A) *the Committee on Homeland Security of*  
25                                 *the House of Representatives; and*

1                    *(B) the Committee on Commerce, Science,*  
2                    *and Transportation and the Committee on*  
3                    *Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of*  
4                    *the Senate.*

5                    *(2) VEHICULAR TERRORISM.—The term “vehic-*  
6                    *ular terrorism” means an action that utilizes auto-*  
7                    *motive transportation to commit terrorism (as such*  
8                    *term is defined in section 2(18) of the Homeland Se-*  
9                    *curity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101(18)).*



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