

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2698

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Department of Homeland Security to bolster security against threats posed by ghost guns, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 7, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. SWALWELL, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. CORREA, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. HERNÁNDEZ, Ms. POU, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, and Mr. GARCIA of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Department of Homeland Security to bolster security against threats posed by ghost guns, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Bolstering Security
3 Against Ghost Guns Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY POLICY TO**
5 **BOLSTER SECURITY AGAINST THREATS**
6 **POSED BY GHOST GUNS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle H of title VIII of the
8 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 451 et seq.)
9 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:
10 **“SEC. 890E. POLICY TO BOLSTER SECURITY AGAINST**
11 **THREATS POSED BY GHOST GUNS.**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the
13 date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary, acting
14 through the Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and
15 Plans of the Department, shall issue a Department-wide
16 strategy to bolster security against threats posed by ghost
17 guns, in order to improve prevention, preparedness, and
18 response to homeland security threats, such as an act of
19 terrorism or targeted violence, associated with ghost guns.
20 Such strategy shall identify the following activities:

21 “(1) Across the Department related to ghost
22 guns and approaches to enhance cross-component in-
23 formation sharing and collaboration.

24 “(2) With Federal, State, local, Tribal, and ter-
25 ritorial partners related to ghost guns and ap-

1 proaches to enhance the Department’s collaboration
2 with such partners.

3 “(b) CROSS-BORDER THREATS.—Not later than 180
4 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the
5 Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis of the De-
6 partment, in coordination with the Commissioner of U.S.
7 Customs and Border Protection, the Director of U.S. Im-
8 migration and Customs Enforcement, and the heads of
9 other appropriate Federal partners, shall develop and dis-
10 seminate a homeland security threat assessment regarding
11 cross-border threats associated with United States-sourced
12 ghost guns and partially complete frames and receivers,
13 with special attention to ghost guns and partially complete
14 frames and receivers used by transnational criminal orga-
15 nizations involved in illicit activity that pose a security
16 threat to the border.

17 “(c) UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE ACTIVI-
18 TIES.—Not later than one year after the date of the enact-
19 ment of this section, the Director of the United States
20 Secret Service, acting through the Chief of the National
21 Threat Assessment Center, in coordination with appro-
22 priate Federal partners, shall carry out research and issue
23 public reports that provide guidance regarding how to pre-
24 vent, prepare for, and respond to homeland security

1 threats, such as an act of terrorism or targeted violence,
2 associated with ghost guns.

3 “(d) TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION
4 ACTIVITIES.—Not later than one year after the date of
5 the enactment of this section and annually thereafter, the
6 Administrator of the Transportation Security Administra-
7 tion shall report to the Committee on Homeland Security
8 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on
9 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate re-
10 garding the number of violations of subsection (a) of sec-
11 tion 1540.111 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations,
12 and any other incidents involving the unauthorized car-
13 riage of a firearm at a passenger screening checkpoint,
14 including information regarding which such violations and
15 incidents during the period of time covered by each such
16 report were committed by individuals while receiving expe-
17 dited screening, which were repeat offenses, and which in-
18 volved a ghost gun. Such reporting shall also include infor-
19 mation regarding trends in the rates of violations and inci-
20 dents on a per passenger basis, as well as a description
21 of Transportation Security Administration efforts during
22 the period of time covered by each such report to increase
23 public awareness of the prohibition described in such sub-
24 section (a) of section 1540.111 of title 49, Code of Federal
25 Regulations.

1 “(e) U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCE-
2 MENT ACTIVITIES.—Not later than one year after the date
3 of the enactment of this section, the Director of U.S. Im-
4 migration and Customs Enforcement, acting through the
5 Executive Associate Director of Homeland Security Inves-
6 tigations, shall, in coordination with the Commissioner of
7 U.S. Customs and Border Protection and appropriate
8 Federal partners, carry out the following:

9 “(1) Prepare an analysis that includes data
10 from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and
11 Explosives and other Federal partners regarding
12 homeland security threats, including border security
13 threats, and cross-border illicit smuggling trends and
14 patterns associated with United States-sourced fire-
15 arms, including ghost guns, recovered in Mexico.

16 “(2) Research and develop a mechanism to
17 share aggregated Federal information regarding
18 United States-sourced firearms, including ghost
19 guns, recovered in Mexico in support of carrying out
20 the strategy under subsection (a).

21 “(3) Develop performance measures to assess
22 the effectiveness of U.S. Immigration and Customs
23 Enforcement activities aimed at combatting home-
24 land security threats, including border security
25 threats, and illicit cross-border activities involving

1 United States-sourced firearms, including ghost
2 guns.

3 “(f) OFFICE OF INTELLIGENCE AND ANALYSIS RE-
4 PORTS.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
6 after the date of the enactment of this subsection
7 and annually thereafter, the Under Secretary for In-
8 telligence and Analysis of the Department, in con-
9 sultation with the Director of the Federal Bureau of
10 Investigation, shall develop a report assessing home-
11 land security threats of ghost guns and partially
12 complete frames and receivers associated with a for-
13 eign terrorist organization or other individual in fur-
14 therance of an act of terrorism or targeted violence.
15 Each such report shall—

16 “(A) assess the range of sources for ac-
17 quiring, manufacturing, and trafficking ghost
18 guns and partially complete frames and receiv-
19 ers;

20 “(B) identify each type of homeland secu-
21 rity threat associated with ghost guns and par-
22 tially complete frames and receivers; and

23 “(C) specify the level of threat associated
24 with each threat identified pursuant to para-
25 graph (2).

1 “(2) DISSEMINATION OF REPORTS.—Consistent
2 with the protection of classified and confidential un-
3 classified information, the Under Secretary for Intel-
4 ligence and Analysis shall—

5 “(A) submit the initial report required
6 under paragraph (1) to Federal, State, local,
7 Tribal, and territorial law enforcement officials,
8 including officials who operate within State,
9 local, and regional fusion centers under the De-
10 partment of Homeland Security State, Local,
11 and Regional Fusion Center Initiative estab-
12 lished by section 210A; and

13 “(B) submit each report required under
14 paragraph (1) to the appropriate congressional
15 committees.

16 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 “(1) ACT OF TERRORISM.—The term ‘act of
18 terrorism’ has the meaning given such term in sec-
19 tion 3077 of title 18, United States Code.

20 “(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
21 TEES.—The term ‘appropriate congressional com-
22 mittees’ means—

23 “(A) the Permanent Select Committee on
24 Intelligence, the Committee on Homeland Secu-

1 rity, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the
2 House of Representatives; and

3 “(B) the Select Committee on Intelligence,
4 the Committee on Homeland Security and Gov-
5 ernmental Affairs, and the Committee on the
6 Judiciary of the Senate.

7 “(3) DOMESTIC TERRORISM.—The term ‘do-
8 mestic terrorism’ has the meaning given such term
9 in section 2331 of title 18, United States Code.

10 “(4) FIREARM.—The term ‘firearm’ has the
11 meaning given such term in section 921 of title 18,
12 United States Code.

13 “(5) FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATION.—
14 The term ‘foreign terrorist organization’ means an
15 organization designated as a foreign terrorist organi-
16 zation under section 219 of the Immigration and
17 Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189).

18 “(6) GHOST GUN.—The term ‘ghost gun’ has
19 the meaning given the term ‘privately made firearm’
20 in section 478.11 of title 27, Code of Federal Regu-
21 lations.

22 “(7) TARGETED VIOLENCE.—The term ‘tar-
23 geted violence’ has the meaning given such term in
24 section 6418 of the National Defense Authorization

1 Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117–81; 6
2 U.S.C. 124h–1).

3 “(8) PARTIALLY COMPLETE FRAME OR RE-
4 CEIVER.—The term ‘partially complete frame or re-
5 ceiver’ means a partially complete, disassembled, or
6 nonfunctional frame or receiver, as such term is de-
7 scribed in section 478.12(c) of title 27, Code of Fed-
8 eral Regulations.”.

9 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
10 in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is
11 amended by inserting after the item relating to section
12 890D the following new item:

“Sec. 890E. Policy to bolster security against threats posed by ghost guns.”.

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