

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for congressional notification regarding major acquisition program breaches, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. McCASKILL (for herself and Mr. DAINES) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for congressional notification regarding major acquisition program breaches, 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 “Reducing DHS Acqui-
5 sition Cost Growth Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION FOR MAJOR AC-**
2 **QUISITION PROGRAMS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle D of title VIII of the
4 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 391 et seq.)
5 is amended by adding at the end the following:

6 **“SEC. 836. CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION AND OTHER RE-**
7 **QUIREMENTS FOR MAJOR ACQUISITION PRO-**
8 **GRAM BREACH.**

9 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 “(1) ACQUISITION.—The term ‘acquisition’ has
11 the meaning given the term in section 131 of title
12 41, United States Code.

13 “(2) ACQUISITION PROGRAM.—The term ‘acqui-
14 sition program’ means the process by which the De-
15 partment acquires, with any appropriated amounts,
16 by contract for purchase or lease, property or serv-
17 ices (including construction) that support the mis-
18 sions and goals of the Department.

19 “(3) ACQUISITION PROGRAM BASELINE.—The
20 term ‘acquisition program baseline’, with respect to
21 an acquisition program, means a summary of the
22 cost, schedule, and performance parameters, ex-
23 pressed in standard, measurable, quantitative terms,
24 which shall be met in order to accomplish the goals
25 of the program.

1 “(4) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
2 GRESS.—The term ‘appropriate committees of Con-
3 gress’ has the meaning given the term in section
4 226(a).

5 “(5) BEST PRACTICES.—The term ‘best prac-
6 tices’, with respect to acquisition, means a knowl-
7 edge-based approach to capability development that
8 includes—

9 “(A) identifying and validating needs;

10 “(B) assessing alternatives to select the
11 most appropriate solution;

12 “(C) clearly establishing well-defined re-
13 quirements;

14 “(D) developing realistic cost assessments
15 and schedules;

16 “(E) securing stable funding that matches
17 resources to requirements;

18 “(F) demonstrating technology, design,
19 and manufacturing maturity;

20 “(G) using milestones and exit criteria or
21 specific accomplishments that demonstrate
22 progress;

23 “(H) adopting and executing standardized
24 processes with known success across programs;

1 “(I) establishing an adequate workforce
2 that is qualified and sufficient to perform nec-
3 essary functions; and

4 “(J) integrating the capabilities described
5 in subparagraphs (A) through (I) into the mis-
6 sion and business operations of the Depart-
7 ment.

8 “(6) BREACH.—The term ‘breach’, with respect
9 to a major acquisition program, means a failure to
10 meet any cost, schedule, or performance threshold
11 specified in the most recently approved acquisition
12 program baseline.

13 “(7) COMPONENT ACQUISITION EXECUTIVE.—
14 The term ‘Component Acquisition Executive’ means
15 the senior acquisition official within a component
16 who is designated in writing by the Under Secretary
17 for Management, in consultation with the component
18 head, with authority and responsibility for leading a
19 process and staff to provide acquisition and program
20 management oversight, policy, and guidance to en-
21 sure that statutory, regulatory, and higher level pol-
22 icy requirements are fulfilled, including compliance
23 with Federal law, the Federal Acquisition Regula-
24 tion, and Department acquisition management direc-

1 tives established by the Under Secretary for Man-
2 agement.

3 “(8) MAJOR ACQUISITION PROGRAM.—The term
4 ‘major acquisition program’ means an acquisition
5 program of the Department that is estimated by the
6 Secretary to require an eventual total expenditure of
7 at least \$300,000,000 (based on fiscal year 2017
8 constant dollars) over the life cycle cost of the pro-
9 gram.

10 “(b) REQUIREMENTS WITHIN DEPARTMENT IN
11 EVENT OF BREACH.—

12 “(1) NOTIFICATIONS.—

13 “(A) NOTIFICATION OF BREACH.—If a
14 breach occurs in a major acquisition program,
15 the program manager for the program shall no-
16 tify the Component Acquisition Executive for
17 the program, the head of the component con-
18 cerned, the Executive Director of the Program
19 Accountability and Risk Management division,
20 the Under Secretary for Management, and the
21 Deputy Secretary not later than 30 calendar
22 days after the date on which the breach is iden-
23 tified.

24 “(B) NOTIFICATION TO SECRETARY.—If a
25 breach occurs in a major acquisition program

1 and the breach results in a cost overrun greater
2 than 15 percent, a schedule delay greater than
3 180 days, or a failure to meet any of the per-
4 formance thresholds from the cost, schedule, or
5 performance parameters specified in the most
6 recently approved acquisition program baseline
7 for the program, the Component Acquisition
8 Executive for the program shall notify the Sec-
9 retary and the Inspector General of the Depart-
10 ment not later than 5 business days after the
11 date on which the Component Acquisition Exec-
12 utive for the program, the head of the compo-
13 nent concerned, the Executive Director of the
14 Program Accountability and Risk Management
15 Division, the Under Secretary for Management,
16 and the Deputy Secretary are notified of the
17 breach under subparagraph (A).

18 “(2) REMEDIATION PLAN AND ROOT CAUSE
19 ANALYSIS.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If a breach occurs in
21 a major acquisition program, the program man-
22 ager for the program shall submit in writing to
23 the head of the component concerned, the Exec-
24 utive Director of the Program Accountability
25 and Risk Management division, and the Under

1 Secretary for Management, at a date estab-
2 lished by the Under Secretary for Management,
3 a remediation plan and root cause analysis re-
4 lating to the breach and program.

5 “(B) REMEDIATION PLAN.—The remedi-
6 ation plan required under subparagraph (A)
7 shall—

8 “(i) explain the circumstances of the
9 breach at issue;

10 “(ii) provide prior cost estimating in-
11 formation;

12 “(iii) include a root cause analysis
13 that determines the underlying cause or
14 causes of shortcomings in cost, schedule,
15 or performance of the major acquisition
16 program with respect to which the breach
17 has occurred, including the role, if any,
18 of—

19 “(I) unrealistic performance ex-
20 pectations;

21 “(II) unrealistic baseline esti-
22 mates for cost or schedule or changes
23 in program requirements;

1 “(III) immature technologies or
2 excessive manufacturing or integra-
3 tion risk;

4 “(IV) unanticipated design, engi-
5 neering, manufacturing, or technology
6 integration issues arising during pro-
7 gram performance;

8 “(V) changes to the scope of the
9 program;

10 “(VI) inadequate program fund-
11 ing or changes in planned out-year
12 funding from one 5-year funding plan
13 to the next 5-year funding plan as
14 outlined in the Future Years Home-
15 land Security Program required under
16 section 874;

17 “(VII) legislative, legal, or regu-
18 latory changes; or

19 “(VIII) inadequate program
20 management personnel, including lack
21 of sufficient number of staff, training,
22 credentials, certifications, or use of
23 best practices;

1 “(iv) propose corrective action to ad-
2 dress cost growth, schedule delays, or per-
3 formance issues;

4 “(v) explain the rationale for why a
5 proposed corrective action is recommended;
6 and

7 “(vi) in coordination with the Compo-
8 nent Acquisition Executive for the pro-
9 gram, discuss all options considered, in-
10 cluding—

11 “(I) the estimated impact on
12 cost, schedule, or performance of the
13 program if no changes are made to
14 current requirements;

15 “(II) the estimated cost of the
16 program if requirements are modified;
17 and

18 “(III) the extent to which fund-
19 ing from other programs will need to
20 be reduced to cover the cost growth of
21 the program.

22 “(3) REVIEW OF CORRECTIVE ACTIONS.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary
24 for Management—

1 “(i) shall review each remediation
2 plan required under paragraph (2); and

3 “(ii) not later than 30 days after sub-
4 mission of a remediation plan under para-
5 graph (2), may approve the plan or provide
6 an alternative proposed corrective action.

7 “(B) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not
8 later than 30 days after the date on which the
9 Under Secretary for Management completes a
10 review of a remediation plan under subpara-
11 graph (A), the Under Secretary for Manage-
12 ment shall submit to the appropriate commit-
13 tees of Congress—

14 “(i) a copy of the remediation plan;
15 and

16 “(ii) a statement describing the cor-
17 rective action or actions that have occurred
18 pursuant to paragraph (2)(B)(iv) for the
19 major acquisition program at issue, with a
20 justification for each action.

21 “(c) REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO CONGRESSIONAL
22 NOTIFICATION IF BREACH OCCURS.—

23 “(1) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—If a notifi-
24 cation to the Secretary is made under subsection
25 (b)(1)(B) relating to a breach in a major acquisition

1 program, the Under Secretary for Management shall
2 notify the appropriate committees of Congress of the
3 breach in the next quarterly Comprehensive Acquisition
4 Status Report, as required in the matter under
5 the heading ‘OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY
6 FOR MANAGEMENT’ in title I of division F of the
7 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2016 (Public Law
8 114–113; 129 Stat. 2493), after receipt by the
9 Under Secretary for Management of notification
10 under that subsection.

11 “(2) SIGNIFICANT VARIANCES IN COSTS OR
12 SCHEDULE.—If a likely cost overrun is greater than
13 20 percent or a likely delay is greater than 12
14 months from the costs and schedule specified in the
15 acquisition program baseline for a major acquisition
16 program, the Under Secretary for Management shall
17 include in the notification required in paragraph (1)
18 a written certification, with supporting explanation,
19 that—

20 “(A) the program is essential to the ac-
21 complishment of the mission of the Depart-
22 ment;

23 “(B) there are no alternatives to the capa-
24 bility or asset provided by the program that will

1 provide equal or greater capability in a more
2 cost-effective and timely manner;

3 “(C) the new acquisition schedule and esti-
4 mates for total acquisition cost are reasonable;
5 and

6 “(D) the management structure for the
7 program is adequate to manage and control
8 cost, schedule, and performance.”.

9 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
10 in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002
11 (Public Law 107–296; 116 Stat. 2135) is amended by in-
12 serting after the item relating to section 835 the following:

“Sec. 836. Congressional notification and other requirements for major acquisi-
tion program breach.”.