

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 659

To improve the programs of the Department of Homeland Security relating to trained detection canines, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 24, 2007

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama (for himself, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

A BILL

To improve the programs of the Department of Homeland Security relating to trained detection canines, 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 “Canine Detection
5 Team Improvement Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. CANINE DETECTION TEAM IMPROVEMENT.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Homeland Security Act of
8 2002 is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating the second title XVIII as
2 title XIX; and

3 (2) by adding at the end the following:

4 **“TITLE XX—MISCELLANEOUS**
5 **PROVISIONS**

6 **“Subtitle A—Canine Detection**
7 **Teams**

8 **“SEC. 2001. COORDINATION AND ENHANCEMENT OF CA-**
9 **NINE DETECTION TEAM TRAINING.**

10 “The Secretary shall—

11 “(1) fully coordinate the canine training pro-
12 grams of the Department, including the research
13 and development of new canine training methods, in-
14 cluding the optimum number and type of training
15 aids and research on all measurements for efficiency
16 and effectiveness; and

17 “(2) ensure that the Department is maximizing
18 its use of existing training facilities and resources to
19 train canines throughout the year.

20 **“SEC. 2002. CANINE PROCUREMENT.**

21 “The Secretary shall—

22 “(1) make it a priority to increase the number
23 of domestically bred canines used by the Department
24 to assist in its counter-terrorism mission, including

1 the protection of ports of entry and along the United
2 States border;

3 “(2) increase the utilization of domestically
4 bred canines from universities and private and non-
5 profit sources in the United States; and

6 “(3) consult with other Federal, State, and
7 local agencies, nonprofit organizations, universities,
8 and private entities that use detection canines, such
9 as those participating in the Scientific Working
10 Group on Dog and Orthogonal Detector Guidelines
11 (popularly known as ‘SWGDOG’), as well as the Of-
12 fice of Management and Budget, to encourage do-
13 mestic breeding of canines and consolidate canine
14 procurement, where possible, across the Federal
15 Government to reduce the cost of purchasing ca-
16 nines.

17 **“SEC. 2003. DOMESTIC CANINE BREEDING GRANT PRO-**
18 **GRAM.**

19 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary
20 shall establish a competitive grant program for domestic
21 breeders of canines. The purpose of the grant program
22 shall be to encourage the development and growth of tar-
23 geted breeding programs that are best suited for breeding
24 canines for detection purposes within the United States.

1 “(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
3 \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

4 **“SEC. 2004. HOMELAND SECURITY CANINE DETECTION AC-
5 CREDITATION BOARD.**

6 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF ACCREDITATION BOARD.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
8 after the date on which the national voluntary con-
9 sensus standards referred to in subsection (b)(1) are
10 issued, the Secretary, in consultation with the Sec-
11 retary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and the
12 Attorney General, shall establish a Homeland Secu-
13 rity Canine Detection Accreditation Board to de-
14 velop and implement a process for certifying compli-
15 ance with such standards.

16 “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The membership of the
17 Accreditation Board shall consist of experts in the
18 fields of canine training and explosives detection
19 from Federal and State agencies, universities, other
20 research institutions, and the private sector, such as
21 those represented on the Executive Board of
22 SWGDOG.

23 “(b) ACCREDITATION PROCESS.—The Accreditation
24 Board shall establish and implement a voluntary accredi-
25 tation process to—

1 “(1) certify that persons conducting certifi-
2 cation of canine detection teams appropriately en-
3 sure that the canine detection teams meet the na-
4 tional voluntary consensus standards for canines,
5 handlers, and trainers developed by SWGDOG;

6 “(2) ensure that canine detection teams do not
7 put public safety and the safety of law enforcement
8 personnel at risk due to fraud or weaknesses in the
9 initial or maintenance training curriculum; and

10 “(3) maintain and update a public list of enti-
11 ties accredited by the Department to certify canine
12 detection teams.

13 “(c) COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS.—Beginning
14 not later than the date that is 180 days after the date
15 on which the standards referred to in subsection (b)(1)
16 are issued, the Secretary shall require that grant funds
17 administered by the Department may not be used to ac-
18 quire a canine detection team unless—

19 “(1) the canine detection team is certified
20 under the process established under subsection (b);
21 or

22 “(2) the Secretary determines that the appli-
23 cant has shown special circumstances that justify
24 the acquisition of canines that are not certified
25 under the process established under subsection (b).

1 **“SEC. 2005. DEFINITIONS.**

2 “In this subtitle:

3 “(1) CANINE DETECTION TEAM.—The term ‘ca-
4 nine detection team’ means a canine and a canine
5 handler.

6 “(2) CERTIFYING ENTITY.—The term ‘certi-
7 fying entity’ means an entity that oversees the proc-
8 esses and procedures used to train and test canine
9 detection teams.

10 “(3) SWGDOG.—The term ‘SWGDOG’ means
11 the Scientific Working Group on Dog and Orthog-
12 onal Detector Guidelines.”.

13 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
14 in section 1(b) of such Act is amended by striking the
15 items relating to the second title XVIII and adding at the
16 end the following:

“TITLE XIX—DOMESTIC NUCLEAR DETECTION OFFICE

“Sec. 1901. Domestic Nuclear Detection Office.

“Sec. 1902. Mission of Office.

“Sec. 1903. Hiring authority.

“Sec. 1904. Testing authority.

“Sec. 1905. Relationship to other Department entities and Federal agencies.

“Sec. 1906. Contracting and grant making authorities.

“TITLE XX—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

“Subtitle A—Canine Detection Teams

“Sec. 2001. Coordination and enhancement of canine detection team training.

“Sec. 2002. Canine procurement.

“Sec. 2003. Domestic canine breeding grant program.

“Sec. 2004. Homeland Security Canine Detection Accreditation Board.

“Sec. 2005. Definitions.”.

1 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date
2 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland
3 Security shall report to the Committee on Homeland Secu-
4 rity of the House of Representatives and the Committee
5 on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the
6 Senate on the plan of the Secretary to coordinate and con-
7 solidate the canine training and related programs of the
8 Department of Homeland Security in accordance with sec-
9 tion 2001 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added
10 by subsection (a).

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