

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2856

To require the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security to report on the use of surveillance technology, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 26, 2021

Mr. TORRES of New York introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To require the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security to report on the use of surveillance technology, 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 “Oversight of Law En-
5 forcement Surveillance Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. REPORTING ON SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY.**

7 (a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
8 of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, a
9 law enforcement agency of a major metropolitan area re-
10 ceiving any Federal funds from the Department of Home-

1 land Security shall report the use of surveillance tech-
2 nology to:

3 (1) The Secretary of Homeland Security.

4 (2) The Inspector General of the Department of
5 Homeland Security.

6 (3) The United States Congress.

7 (b) REPORT BY INSPECTOR GENERAL.—Not later
8 than one year after the enactment of this Act, and annu-
9 ally thereafter, the Inspector General of the Department
10 of Homeland Security shall report to the Committee on
11 Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and
12 the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental
13 Affairs of the Senate on the use of surveillance technology
14 and the impact the use of such technology has on civil
15 liberties and privacy.

16 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 (1) LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.—The term
18 “law enforcement agency” means a State, local, In-
19 dian tribal, or campus public agency engaged in the
20 prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution, or
21 adjudication of violations of criminal laws.

22 (2) MAJOR METROPOLITAN AREA.—The term
23 “major metropolitan area” means an area including
24 250,000 residents or more.

1 (3) SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY.—The term
2 “surveillance technology” means equipment, soft-
3 ware, or system capable of, or used or designed for,
4 collecting, retaining, processing, or sharing audio,
5 video, location, thermal, biometric, or similar infor-
6 mation, that is operated by or at the direction of the
7 department.

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