

(2) help ensure that emergency response providers can communicate with each other in the event of natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters;

(3) provide technical assistance to enable emergency response providers to deal with threats and contingencies in a variety of environments;

(4) identify appropriate joint-use equipment to ensure communications access;

(5) identify solutions to facilitate communications between emergency response providers in communities of differing population densities; and

(6) take other actions or provide equipment as the Assistant Director deems appropriate to foster interoperable emergency communications.

**(d) Distribution of funds**

**(1) In general**

The Secretary shall distribute funds under this section to each community participating in the demonstration project through the State, or States, in which each community is located.

**(2) Other participants**

A State shall make the funds available promptly to the local and tribal governments and emergency response providers selected by the Secretary to participate in the demonstration project.

**(3) Report**

Not later than 90 days after a State receives funds under this subsection the State shall report to the Assistant Director on the status of the distribution of such funds to local and tribal governments.

**(e) Maximum period of grants**

The Assistant Director may not fund any participant under the demonstration project for more than 3 years.

**(f) Transfer of information and knowledge**

The Assistant Director shall establish mechanisms to ensure that the information and knowledge gained by participants in the demonstration project are transferred among the participants and to other interested parties, including other communities that submitted applications to the participant in the project.

**(g) Authorization of appropriations**

There is authorized to be appropriated for grants under this section such sums as may be necessary.

(Pub. L. 107-296, title XVIII, § 1810, as added Pub. L. 110-53, title III, § 302(a), Aug. 3, 2007, 121 Stat. 300; amended Pub. L. 115-278, § 2(g)(6)(D), Nov. 16, 2018, 132 Stat. 4180.)

AMENDMENTS

2018—Pub. L. 115-278, § 2(g)(6)(D)(iii), substituted “Assistant Director” for “Director” wherever appearing.

Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 115-278, § 2(g)(6)(D)(i), substituted “Assistant Director for Emergency Communications (referred to in this section as the ‘Assistant Director’)” for “Director of the Office of Emergency Communications (referred to in this section as the ‘Director’)”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 115-278, § 2(g)(6)(D)(ii), substituted “Emergency Communications Division” for “Office of Emergency Communications” in introductory provisions.

**SUBCHAPTER XIV—COUNTERING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION OFFICE**

CODIFICATION

Pub. L. 115-387, § 2(a)(1), Dec. 21, 2018, 132 Stat. 5162, substituted “COUNTERING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION OFFICE” for “DOMESTIC NUCLEAR DESTRUCTION OFFICE” in subchapter heading.

This subchapter is comprised of title XIX, formerly title XVIII, of Pub. L. 107-296, as added by Pub. L. 109-347, title V, § 501(a), Oct. 13, 2006, 120 Stat. 1932, and renumbered title XIX by Pub. L. 110-53, title I, § 104(a)(1), Aug. 3, 2007, 121 Stat. 294.

**§ 590. Definitions**

In this subchapter:

**(1) Assistant Secretary**

The term “Assistant Secretary” means the Assistant Secretary for the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office.

**(2) Intelligence community**

The term “intelligence community” has the meaning given such term in section 3003(4) of title 50.

**(3) Office**

The term “Office” means the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office established under section 591(a) of this title.

**(4) Weapon of mass destruction**

The term “weapon of mass destruction” has the meaning given the term in section 1801 of title 50.

(Pub. L. 107-296, title XIX, § 1900, as added Pub. L. 115-387, § 2(a)(2), Dec. 21, 2018, 132 Stat. 5162.)

PART A—COUNTERING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION OFFICE

**§ 591. Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office**

**(a) Establishment**

There is established in the Department a Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office.

**(b) Assistant Secretary**

The Office shall be headed by an Assistant Secretary for the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office, who shall be appointed by the President.

**(c) Responsibilities**

The Assistant Secretary shall serve as the Secretary’s principal advisor on—

(1) weapons of mass destruction matters and strategies; and

(2) coordinating the efforts of the Department to counter weapons of mass destruction.

**(d) Details**

The Secretary may request that the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and the heads of other Federal agencies, including elements of the intelligence community, provide for the

reimbursable detail of personnel with relevant expertise to the Office.

**(e) Termination**

The Office shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after December 21, 2018.

(Pub. L. 107–296, title XIX, §1901, as added Pub. L. 115–387, §2(a)(2), Dec. 21, 2018, 132 Stat. 5162.)

PRIOR PROVISIONS

A prior section 591, Pub. L. 107–296, title XIX, §1901, formerly title XVIII, §1801, as added Pub. L. 109–347, title V, §501(a), Oct. 13, 2006, 120 Stat. 1932; renumbered title XIX, §1901, Pub. L. 110–53, title I, §104(a)(1), (2), Aug. 3, 2007, 121 Stat. 294, related to establishment of a Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, prior to repeal by Pub. L. 115–387, §2(a)(2), Dec. 21, 2018, 132 Stat. 5162.

REFERENCES AND CONSTRUCTION

Pub. L. 115–387, §2(b), Dec. 21, 2018, 132 Stat. 5166, provided that:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Any reference in any law, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to—

“(A) the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office shall be deemed to be a reference to the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office; and

“(B) the Director for Domestic Nuclear Detection shall be deemed to be a reference to the Assistant Secretary for the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office.

“(2) CONSTRUCTION.—Sections 1923 through 1927 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 [6 U.S.C. 592, 593, 594, 596, 596a], as redesignated by subsection (a), shall be construed to cover the chemical and biological responsibilities of the Assistant Secretary for the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office.

“(3) AUTHORITY.—The authority of the Director of the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office to make grants or enter into cooperative agreements is transferred to the Assistant Secretary for the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office, and such authority shall be construed to include grants for all purposes of title XIX of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 [6 U.S.C. 590 et seq.], as amended by this Act.”

DOMESTIC NUCLEAR DETECTION OFFICE AND OFFICE OF HEALTH AFFAIRS: ABOLISHMENT AND TRANSFER TO COUNTERING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION OFFICE

Pub. L. 115–387, §2(e), Dec. 21, 2018, 132 Stat. 5167, provided that:

“(1) TRANSFERS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall transfer to—

“(A) the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office all functions, personnel, budget authority, and assets of—

“(i) the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office, as in existence on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 21, 2018]; and

“(ii) the Office of Health Affairs, as in existence on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, except for the functions, personnel, budget authority, and assets of such office necessary to perform the functions specified in section 710 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 [6 U.S.C. 350] (relating to workforce health and medical support), as added by this Act; and

“(B) the Management Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security all functions, personnel, budget authority, and assets of the Office of Health Affairs, as in existence on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, that are necessary to perform the functions of such section 710.

“(2) ABOLISHMENT.—Upon completion of all transfers pursuant to paragraph (1)—

“(A) the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office of the Department of Homeland Security and the Office of Health Affairs of the Department of Homeland Security are abolished; and

“(B) the positions of Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs and Director for Domestic Nuclear Detection are abolished.”

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL, AND NUCLEAR ACTIVITIES

Pub. L. 115–387, §2(g), Dec. 21, 2018, 132 Stat. 5169, provided that: “Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act [Dec. 21, 2018], and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide a briefing and report to the appropriate congressional committees (as defined in section 2 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101)) on—

“(1) the organization and management of the chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear activities of the Department of Homeland Security, including research and development activities, and the location of each activity under the organizational structure of the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office;

“(2) a comprehensive inventory of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear activities, including research and development activities, of the Department of Homeland Security, highlighting areas of collaboration between components, coordination with other agencies, and the effectiveness and accomplishments of consolidated chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear activities of the Department of Homeland Security, including research and development activities;

“(3) information relating to how the organizational structure of the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office will enhance the development of chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear priorities and capabilities across the Department of Homeland Security;

“(4) a discussion of any resulting cost savings and efficiencies gained through activities described in paragraphs (1) and (2);

“(5) information on how the Assistant Secretary for the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office is coordinating with the Under Secretary of Science and Technology of the Department of Homeland Security on research and development activities; and

“(6) recommendations for any necessary statutory changes, or, if no statutory changes are necessary, an explanation of why no statutory or organizational changes are necessary.”

PART B—MISSION OF THE OFFICE

**§ 591g. Mission of the Office**

The Office shall be responsible for coordinating with other Federal efforts and developing a strategy and policy for the Department to plan for, detect, and protect against the importation, possession, storage, transportation, development, or use of unauthorized chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear materials, devices, or agents in the United States and to protect against an attack using such materials, devices, or agents against the people, territory, or interests of the United States.

(Pub. L. 107–296, title XIX, §1921, as added Pub. L. 115–387, §2(a)(3), Dec. 21, 2018, 132 Stat. 5163.)

**§ 591h. Relationship to other Department components and Federal agencies**

**(a) In general**

The authority of the Assistant Secretary under this subchapter shall not affect or diminish the authority or the responsibility of any officer of the Department or any officer of any other Federal agency with respect to the command, control, or direction of the functions, personnel, funds, assets, or liabilities of any compo-