

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2899

To require the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to address deficiencies and make necessary upgrades to the security camera and radio systems of the Bureau of Prisons to ensure the health and safety of employees and inmates.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 29, 2021

Mr. OSSOFF (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. GRASSLEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To require the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to address deficiencies and make necessary upgrades to the security camera and radio systems of the Bureau of Prisons to ensure the health and safety of employees and inmates.

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 “Prison Camera Reform
5 Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The Bureau of Prisons has 122 institutions
2 located throughout the United States. The Bureau
3 of Prisons employs nearly 38,000 employees and is
4 responsible for more than 150,000 Federal inmates.

5 (2) Video footage from security camera systems
6 and reliable communication over radio systems with-
7 in Bureau of Prisons institutions are essential to
8 protecting the health and safety of Bureau of Pris-
9 ons employees and Federal inmates.

10 (3) Based on the experience of Bureau of Pris-
11 ons correctional staff, the noticeable presence of
12 functioning security cameras serves as an effective
13 deterrent to criminal behavior and misconduct.

14 (4) Well-documented deficiencies of camera sys-
15 tems at Bureau of Prisons' facilities have hindered
16 investigators' ability to substantiate allegations of
17 serious misconduct by staff and inmates, including
18 sexual and physical assaults, medical neglect, and in-
19 troduction of contraband.

20 (5) In a 2016 report, the Office of the Inspec-
21 tor General for the Department of Justice deter-
22 mined that "deficiencies within the BOP's security
23 camera system have affected the OIG's ability to se-
24 cure prosecutions of staff and inmates in BOP con-
25 triband introduction cases, and these same problems

1 adversely impact the availability of critical evidence
 2 to support administrative or disciplinary action
 3 against staff and inmates”.

4 (6) Shortcomings in the land-mobile radio sys-
 5 tems at Bureau of Prison facilities institutions im-
 6 pede the communication abilities of staff, slowing or
 7 preventing the response of correctional officers dur-
 8 ing an emergency or threat of attack, and jeopard-
 9 izing the safety of both staff and Federal inmates.

10 **SEC. 3. REQUIRED PLAN FOR REFORM OF BOP SECURITY**

11 **CAMERA AND RADIO COVERAGE AND CAPA-** 12 **BILITIES.**

13 (a) PLAN.—Not later than 90 days after the date of
 14 enactment of this Act, the Director of the Bureau of Pris-
 15 ons shall—

16 (1) evaluate the security camera, land-mobile
 17 radio (referred to in this Act as “LMR”), and public
 18 address (referred to in this Act as “PA”) systems in
 19 use by the Bureau of Prisons as of the date of en-
 20 actment of this Act; and

21 (2) submit to the Committee on the Judiciary
 22 of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary
 23 of the House of Representatives a plan for ensuring
 24 that all Bureau of Prisons correctional facilities have

1 the security camera, LMR, and PA system coverage
2 and capabilities necessary to—

3 (A) ensure the health and safety of staff
4 and Federal inmates; and

5 (B) ensure the documentation and accessi-
6 bility of video evidence that may pertain to mis-
7 conduct by staff or inmates, negligent or abu-
8 sive treatment of inmates, or criminal activity
9 within correctional facilities.

10 (b) CONTENTS.—The plan required under subsection
11 (a) shall—

12 (1) identify and include plans to address any
13 deficiencies in the security camera system in use at
14 Bureau of Prisons correctional facilities, including
15 those related to—

16 (A) an insufficient number of cameras;

17 (B) inoperable or malfunctioning cameras;

18 (C) blind spots;

19 (D) poor quality video; and

20 (E) any other deficits in the security cam-
21 era system;

22 (2) identify and include plans to adopt and
23 maintain any security camera system upgrades need-
24 ed to achieve the purposes described in subsection
25 (a), including—

1 (A) conversion of all analog cameras to
2 digital surveillance systems, with corresponding
3 infrastructure and equipment upgrade require-
4 ments;

5 (B) upgrades to ensure the secure storage,
6 logging, preservation, and accessibility of re-
7 cordings such that the recordings are available
8 to investigators or Courts at such time as may
9 be reasonably required; and

10 (C) additional enterprise-wide camera sys-
11 tem capabilities needed to enhance the safety
12 and security of inmates and staff;

13 (3) identify and include plans to address any
14 deficiencies in the LMR and PA systems in use at
15 Bureau of Prisons correctional facilities, including
16 those related to—

17 (A) an inadequate number of radios;

18 (B) inoperable, outdated, or malfunc-
19 tioning LMR or PA systems;

20 (C) areas of Bureau of Prisons correctional
21 facilities that lack adequate reception for radio
22 operation;

23 (D) radios that lack an emergency notifica-
24 tion feature (also known as a “man down”
25 function), which automatically sends an alert

1 and transmits the location of that radio in the
2 event the wearer is in a prone position; and

3 (E) any other deficits in the LMR or PA
4 systems;

5 (4) include an assessment of operational and
6 logistical considerations in implementing the plan re-
7 quired under subsection (a), including—

8 (A) a prioritization of facilities for needed
9 upgrades, beginning with high security institu-
10 tions;

11 (B) the personnel and training necessary
12 to implement the changes; and

13 (C) ongoing repair and maintenance re-
14 quirements; and

15 (5) include a 3-year strategic plan and cost pro-
16 jection for implementing the changes and upgrades
17 to the security camera, LMR, and PA systems iden-
18 tified under paragraphs (1) through (4).

19 (c) IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE.—Not later than 3
20 years after the date on which the plan is submitted under
21 subsection (a)(2), and subject to appropriations, the Di-
22 rector of the Bureau of Prisons shall complete implemen-
23 tation of the submitted plan.

24 (d) ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORTS.—Beginning 1
25 year after the date on which the plan is submitted under

1 subsection (a)(2), and each year thereafter until the end
2 of the 3-year period described in subsection (c), the Direc-
3 tor of the Bureau of Prisons shall submit to the Com-
4 mittee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee
5 on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report
6 on the progress of the implementation of the submitted
7 plan.

