

## S 4305

DHS Better Ballistic Body Armor Act

**Congress:** 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

**Chamber:** Senate

**Policy Area:** Government Operations and Politics

**Introduced:** May 9, 2024

**Current Status:** Held at the desk.

**Latest Action:** Held at the desk. (Dec 3, 2024)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/4305>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Sen. Peters, Gary C. [D-MI]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** MI • **Chamber:** Senate

### Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Britt, Katie Boyd [R-AL]	R · AL		May 9, 2024
Sen. Ossoff, Jon [D-GA]	D · GA		Jul 9, 2024
Sen. Rounds, Mike [R-SD]	R · SD		Jul 9, 2024

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee	Senate	Reported By	Sep 9, 2024

### Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Government Operations and Politics

### Related Bills

*No related bills are listed.*

## DHS Better Ballistic Body Armor Act

This bill requires ballistic resistant body armor issued to agents and officers of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to meet certain requirements related to fit, coverage, and testing on female body shapes. *Ballistic resistant body armor* means ballistic protection for the torso worn over or under clothing (e.g., bulletproof vests).

(Testing by the Federal Bureau of Investigation found that certain soft body armor, when worn by women, allowed projectiles to skip off the armor panel in the chest area and project into the unprotected throat area. New body armor models that mitigate this issue are now available and in use by some federal agencies.)

Under the bill, ballistic resistant body armor procured by DHS for its agents and officers must

- be made to conform and provide the best possible coverage to individual wearers, allowing for either flat or shaped front panels;
- have enhanced and advanced fit technology that stops bullets from redirecting off the chest at an upward angle; and
- have passed certain testing by the National Institute of Justice, including testing on female-shaped molds.

Within three years of the bill's enactment, all DHS agents and officers whose duties require body armor must be issued body armor that meets these requirements.

### Actions Timeline

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- **Dec 3, 2024:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Dec 3, 2024:** Received in the House.
- **Dec 3, 2024:** Held at the desk.
- **Dec 2, 2024:** Measure laid before Senate by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR S6758-6759)
- **Dec 2, 2024:** The committee substitute withdrawn by Unanimous Consent.
- **Dec 2, 2024:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.
- **Dec 2, 2024:** Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent. (text of amendment in the nature of a substitute: CR S6759)
- **Sep 9, 2024:** Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Reported by Senator Peters with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. With written report No. 118-214.
- **Sep 9, 2024:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 492.
- **May 15, 2024:** Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **May 9, 2024:** Introduced in Senate
- **May 9, 2024:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.