

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2281

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to reauthorize the Border Enforcement Security Task Force program within the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 2, 2017

Mr. VELA (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. MCSALLY, Mr. CORREA, and Ms. BARRAGÁN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

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## A BILL

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to reauthorize the Border Enforcement Security Task Force program within the Department of Homeland Security, 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 “Border Enforcement  
5 Security Task Force Reauthorization Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. MODIFIED INSTRUCTIONS.**

7 (a) UPDATED CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE ESTAB-  
8 LISHMENT OF UNITS.—Paragraph (2) of section 432(c)

1 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 240(e))  
2 is amended—

3 (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),  
4 by striking “the Secretary shall consider” and in-  
5 serting “the Secretary shall apply risk-based criteria  
6 that takes into consideration”; and

7 (2) in subparagraph (A), by inserting before the  
8 semicolon the following: “, including threats posed  
9 by transnational criminal organizations”;

10 (3) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and”  
11 after the semicolon;

12 (4) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period  
13 at the end and inserting “; and”; and

14 (5) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
15 paragraphs:

16 “(E) the extent to which the BEST unit  
17 would advance the Department’s homeland and  
18 border security strategic priorities and related  
19 objectives; and

20 “(F) whether departmental Joint Task  
21 Force operations as established pursuant to sec-  
22 tion 708 and other joint cross-border initiatives  
23 would be enhanced, improved, or otherwise as-  
24 sisted by the BEST unit to be established.”.

1 (b) UPDATED REPORT ELEMENTS.—Subsection (e)  
2 of section 432 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6  
3 U.S.C. 240) is amended to read as follows:

4 “(e) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the  
5 date of the enactment of this section and annually there-  
6 after for the following five years, the Secretary shall sub-  
7 mit to Congress a report that includes the following:

8 “(1) A description of the effectiveness of BEST  
9 in enhancing border security, disrupting and dis-  
10 mantling transnational criminal organizations, and  
11 reducing drug trafficking, arms smuggling, illegal  
12 alien trafficking and smuggling, violence, and kid-  
13 napping along and across the international borders  
14 of the United States, as measured by crime statis-  
15 tics, including violent deaths, incidents of violence,  
16 and drug-related arrests.

17 “(2) An assessment of how BEST enhances in-  
18 formation-sharing, including the dissemination of  
19 homeland security information, among Federal,  
20 State, local, tribal, and foreign law enforcement  
21 agencies.

22 “(3) A description of how BEST advances the  
23 Department’s homeland and border security stra-  
24 tegic priorities and effectiveness of BEST in achiev-  
25 ing related objectives.

1           “(4) An assessment of BEST’s joint operational  
2           efforts with departmental Joint Task Force oper-  
3           ations established pursuant to section 708 and other  
4           joint cross-border initiatives.”.

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