

Union Calendar No. 75

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2281

[Report No. 115-122]

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.

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

MAY 16, 2017

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italie*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on May 2, 2017]

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 Se-*
5 *curity Task Force Reauthorization Act of 2017”.*

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

7 *(a) UPDATED CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE ESTABLISH-*
8 *MENT OF UNITS.—Paragraph (2) of section 432(c) of the*
9 *Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 240(c)) is amend-*
10 *ed—*

11 *(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),*
12 *by striking “the Secretary shall consider” and insert-*
13 *ing “the Secretary shall apply risk-based criteria that*
14 *takes into consideration”; and*

15 *(2) in subparagraph (A), by inserting before the*
16 *semicolon the following: “, including threats posed by*
17 *transnational criminal organizations”;*

18 *(3) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and” after*
19 *the semicolon;*

20 *(4) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period*
21 *at the end and inserting “;”; and*

22 *(5) by adding at the end the following new sub-*
23 *paragraphs:*

24 *“(E) the extent to which the BEST unit*
25 *would advance the Department’s homeland and*

1 border security strategic priorities and related
2 objectives; and

3 “(F) whether departmental Joint Task
4 Force operations as established pursuant to sec-
5 tion 708 and other joint cross-border initiatives
6 would be enhanced, improved, or otherwise as-
7 sisted by the BEST unit to be established.”.

8 (b) *PORT SECURITY*.—Subsection (c) of section 432 of
9 the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 240) is
10 amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

11 “(4) *PORT SECURITY BEST UNITS*.—A BEST
12 unit established pursuant to paragraph (2) with a
13 port security nexus shall be composed of at least one
14 member of each of the following:

15 “(A) The Coast Guard Investigative Service.

16 “(B) The geographically-responsible Coast
17 Guard Sector Intelligence Office.”.

18 (c) *UPDATED REPORT ELEMENTS*.—Subsection (e) of
19 section 432 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C.
20 240) is amended to read as follows:

21 “(e) *REPORT*.—Not later than 180 days after the date
22 of the enactment of this section and annually thereafter for
23 the following five years, the Secretary shall submit to Con-
24 gress a report that includes the following:

1 “(1) A description of the effectiveness of BEST
2 in enhancing border security, disrupting and disman-
3 tling transnational criminal organizations, and re-
4 ducing drug trafficking, arms smuggling, illegal alien
5 trafficking and smuggling, violence, and kidnapping
6 along and across the international borders of the
7 United States, as measured by crime statistics, in-
8 cluding violent deaths, incidents of violence, and
9 drug-related arrests.

10 “(2) An assessment of how BEST enhances infor-
11 mation-sharing, including the dissemination of home-
12 land security information, among Federal, State,
13 local, tribal, and foreign law enforcement agencies.

14 “(3) A description of how BEST advances the
15 Department’s homeland and border security strategic
16 priorities and effectiveness of BEST in achieving re-
17 lated objectives.

18 “(4) An assessment of BEST’s joint operational
19 efforts with departmental Joint Task Force operations
20 established pursuant to section 708 and other joint
21 cross-border initiatives.”.

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