

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3658

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 with respect to the Joint Task Force to Combat Opioid Trafficking.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 24, 2023

Mr. VASQUEZ (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. DELUZIO, and Mr. CISCOMANI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

A BILL

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 with respect to the Joint Task Force to Combat Opioid Trafficking.

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 “Joint Task Force to
5 Combat Opioid Trafficking Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF JOINT TASK FORCE TO**
7 **COUNTER OPIOIDS.**

8 Subsection (b) of section 708 of the Homeland Secu-
9 rity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 348) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (2)(A), by adding at the end
2 the following new clause:

3 “(iv) Enhancing the integration of the
4 Department’s border security operations to
5 detect, interdict, disrupt, and prevent nar-
6 cotics, such as fentanyl and other synthetic
7 opioids, from entering the United States.”;

8 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (9) through
9 (13) as paragraphs (11) through (15), respectively;
10 and

11 (3) by inserting after paragraph (8) the fol-
12 lowing new paragraphs:

13 “(9) ENGAGEMENT WITH THE PRIVATE SEC-
14 TOR.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director of a
16 Joint Task Force may engage with representa-
17 tives from a private sector organization for the
18 purpose of carrying out the mission of such
19 Joint Task Force, and any such engagement
20 shall not be subject to the Federal Advisory
21 Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

22 “(B) ASSISTANCE FROM PRIVATE SEC-
23 TOR.—

24 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding
25 subsection (b)(1), the Secretary, with the

1 agreement of a private sector organization,
2 may arrange for the temporary assignment
3 of an employee of such organization to a
4 Joint Task Force in accordance with this
5 paragraph.

6 “(ii) AGREEMENT.—The Secretary
7 shall provide for a written agreement be-
8 tween the Department, the private sector
9 organization concerned, and the employee
10 concerned regarding the terms and condi-
11 tions of the assignment of such employee
12 under this paragraph.

13 “(C) NO FINANCIAL LIABILITY.—Any
14 agreement under this paragraph shall require
15 the private sector organization concerned to be
16 responsible for all costs associated with the as-
17 signment of an employee under this paragraph.

18 “(D) DURATION.—An assignment under
19 this paragraph may, at any time and for any
20 reason, be terminated by the Secretary or the
21 private sector organization concerned and shall
22 be for a total period of not more than 2 years.

23 “(10) COLLABORATION WITH TASK FORCES
24 OUTSIDE DHS.—The Secretary may enter into a
25 memorandum of understanding by which a Joint

1 Task Force established under this section to carry
2 out any purpose specified in paragraph (2)(A) and
3 any other Federal, State, local, Tribal, territorial, or
4 international entity or task force established for a
5 similar purpose may collaborate for the purpose of
6 carrying out the mission of such Joint Task Force.”.

7 **SEC. 3. NOTIFICATION; REPORTING.**

8 (a) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 90 days after the
9 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland
10 Security shall—

11 (1) make a determination regarding whether to
12 establish a Joint Task Force under section 708 of
13 the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to carry out the
14 purpose specified in clause (iv) of subsection
15 (b)(2)(A) of such section, as added by section 2 of
16 this Act; and

17 (2) submit to the Committee on Homeland Se-
18 curity of the House of Representatives and the Com-
19 mittee on Homeland Security and Governmental Af-
20 fairs of the Senate written notification of such deter-
21 mination, including, if such determination is in the
22 negative, information on the basis for such negative
23 determination.

24 (b) REPORTING.—If the Secretary of Homeland Se-
25 curity establishes a Joint Task Force under section 708

1 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to carry out the
2 purpose specified in clause (iv) of subsection (b)(2)(A) of
3 such section, as added by section 2 of this Act, the Sec-
4 retary shall—

5 (1) beginning with the first report required
6 under subsection (b)(6)(F) of such section 708, in-
7 clude with respect to such a Joint Task Force—

8 (A) a gap analysis of funding, personnel,
9 technology, or other resources needed in order
10 to detect, interdict, disrupt, and prevent nar-
11 cotics, such as fentanyl and other synthetic
12 opioids, from entering the United States; and

13 (B) a description of collaboration pursuant
14 to subsection (b)(10) of such section (as added
15 by section 2 of this Act) between such a Joint
16 Task Force and any other Federal, State, local,
17 Tribal, territorial, or international task force,
18 including the United States Postal Service and
19 the United States Postal Inspection Service;
20 and

21 (2) in each review required under subsection
22 (b)(11)(C) of section 708 of the Homeland Security
23 Act of 2002, as redesignated by section 2 of this
24 Act, an assessment of the activities of such a Joint
25 Task Force, including an evaluation of whether such

1 Joint Task Force has enhanced integration of the
2 Department's efforts, created any unique capabili-
3 ties, or otherwise enhanced operational effectiveness,
4 coordination, or information sharing to detect, inter-
5 dict, disrupt, and prevent narcotics, such as fentanyl
6 and other synthetic opioids, from entering the
7 United States.

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