

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4599

To provide resources for jurisdictions and organizations that have experienced a significant influx of migrant aliens, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 1, 2019

Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico (for herself, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. CROW) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To provide resources for jurisdictions and organizations that have experienced a significant influx of migrant aliens, 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 “The Southern Border
5 Communities Relief Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. FUNDING FOR HUMANITARIAN RELIEF AT THE BOR-**
2 **DER.**

3 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
4 authorized to be appropriated for the emergency food and
5 shelter program under title III of the McKinney-Vento
6 Homeless Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 11331 et seq.), for
7 use only under subsection (b) of this section, \$60,000,000
8 for each of fiscal years 2021, 2022, and 2023.

9 (b) USE.—Any amounts made available pursuant to
10 subsection (a)—

11 (1) shall be used only for providing assistance
12 to aliens released from the custody of the Depart-
13 ment of Homeland Security;

14 (2) notwithstanding sections 315 and 316(b) of
15 the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (42
16 U.S.C. 11345, 11346(b)), shall be disbursed by the
17 Emergency Food and Shelter Program National
18 Board not later than 60 days after the date on
19 which such amounts become available;

20 (3) shall be distributed by the Emergency Food
21 and Shelter Program National Board only to juris-
22 dictions or local recipient organizations serving com-
23 munities that have experienced a significant influx of
24 such aliens;

25 (4) may be used to reimburse such jurisdictions
26 or local recipient organizations for costs incurred in

1 providing services to such aliens on or after July 1,
2 2019; and

3 (5) shall be distributed by the Emergency Food
4 and Shelter Program National Board in accordance
5 with the findings in the report described in sub-
6 section (d).

7 (c) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later than
8 24 hours after the publication of a notice of funding op-
9 portunity for amounts made available pursuant to sub-
10 section (a), the Administrator of the Federal Emergency
11 Management Agency shall notify the Committees on Ap-
12 propriations of the Senate and the House of Representa-
13 tives, the Committee on Homeland Security of the House
14 of Representatives, and the Committee on Homeland Se-
15 curity and Governmental Affairs of the Senate of such
16 publication.

17 (d) REPORTING.—Not later than 30 days after the
18 date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of
19 the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall submit
20 to the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and
21 the House of Representatives, the Committee on Home-
22 land Security of the House of Representatives, and the
23 Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Af-
24 fairs of the Senate a report regarding the disbursement
25 under the Emergency Food and Shelter Program of

1 amounts appropriated by Public Law 116–26. Such report
2 shall include—

3 (1) an examination of whether projected costs
4 and administrative costs, such as costs related to
5 staffing, transportation, and applying for Federal
6 funding, should be included in primary reimburse-
7 ment eligibility for future disbursements;

8 (2) an analysis of whether jurisdictions and
9 local recipient organizations were reimbursed to the
10 greatest extent practicable;

11 (3) identification of challenges jurisdictions and
12 local recipient organizations faced during the appli-
13 cation process; and

14 (4) recommendations on how to improve the re-
15 imbursement process to maximize full compensation.

16 **SEC. 3. NOTICE TO APPEAR; OWN RECOGNIZANCE RELEASE**
17 **PROTOCOL.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—The release of an alien that the
19 Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection de-
20 termines to release on that alien’s own recognizance and
21 the issuance of a notice to appear to that alien shall be
22 governed by a standard protocol, which the Secretary of
23 Homeland Security, acting through the Commissioner of
24 U.S. Customs and Border Protection, shall develop not
25 later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

1 The protocol shall include requirements for, to the great-
2 est extent practicable and without delaying releases—

3 (1) coordination with local nongovernmental or-
4 ganizations and units of local government on a re-
5 lease date and time;

6 (2) the provision of a pre-release notice to non-
7 governmental organizations and units of local gov-
8 ernment not less than 8 hours before release;

9 (3) releasing individuals in locations with robust
10 nongovernmental organization networks, as deter-
11 mined by the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and
12 Border Protection, in consultation with the Chief
13 Patrol Agent of the respective U.S. Border Patrol
14 sector, provided that other appropriate factors such
15 as proximity and reasonable distribution of released
16 individuals are also considered;

17 (4) releasing individuals at facilities operated by
18 nongovernmental organizations or units of local gov-
19 ernment;

20 (5) the provision to organizations or units of
21 local government to which individuals were released
22 of documentation describing the date of the release,
23 the number of individuals released, and other rel-
24 evant information;

1 (6) ensuring that individuals are released with
2 any valid documentation with which they entered the
3 United States; and

4 (7) ensuring that notices to appear contain
5 complete and accurate information, including—

6 (A) a clear date and time for an immigra-
7 tion court hearing;

8 (B) requirements needed to travel to the
9 individuals' stated destination; and

10 (C) contact information, including an ad-
11 dress to which individuals can receive notices
12 regarding updates to immigration proceedings.

13 (b) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 60 days after
14 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Home-
15 land Security, acting through the Commissioner of U.S.
16 Customs and Border Protection, shall implement the
17 standard protocol developed under subsection (a).

18 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
19 authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be nec-
20 essary to carry out this section.

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