

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8207

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 23, 2022

Mr. GUEST (for himself and Ms. STEFANIK) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

A BILL

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to reauthorize the Border Enforcement Security Task Force program of 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 2022”.

1 **SEC. 2. UPDATED CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE ESTABLISH-**
2 **MENT OF BEST UNITS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (2) of section 432(c)
4 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 240(c))
5 is amended—

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

10 (2) in subparagraph (A), by inserting before the
11 semicolon the following: “, including threats posed
12 by transnational criminal organizations”;

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

15 (4) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period
16 and inserting “; and”;

17 (5) by adding at the end the following new sub-
18 paragraphs:

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

23 “(F) whether departmental Joint Task
24 Force operations established pursuant to sec-
25 tion 708 and other joint cross-border initiatives

1 would be enhanced, improved, or otherwise as-
2 sisted by the BEST unit.”.

3 (b) PORT SECURITY.—Subsection (c) of section 432
4 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 240(e))
5 is amended by—

6 (1) redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph
7 (4); and

8 (2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-
9 lowing new paragraph:

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

14 “(A) The Coast Guard Investigative Serv-
15 ice.

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

18 (c) UPDATED CONSIDERATIONS FOR OPERATION.—
19 Paragraph (2) of section 432(d) of the Homeland Security
20 Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 240(d)) is amended by inserting
21 “salary reimbursement,” before “operational”.

22 (d) UPDATED REPORT ELEMENTS.—Subsection (e)
23 of section 432 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (620
24 U.S.C. 240(e)) is amended to read as follows:

1 “(e) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the
2 date of the enactment of this section and annually there
3 after for the following five years, the Secretary shall sub-
4 mit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House
5 of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Secu-
6 rity and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report that
7 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.”.

5 (e) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 432 of the
6 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (620 U.S.C. 240) is
7 amended by striking “tribal” each place such term ap-
8 pears and inserting “Tribal”.

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