

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2281

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Border Enforcement
3 Security Task Force Reauthorization Act of 2017”.

4 **SEC. 2. MODIFIED INSTRUCTIONS.**

5 (a) UPDATED CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE ESTAB-
6 LISHMENT OF UNITS.—Paragraph (2) of section 432(c)
7 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 240(c))
8 is amended—

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

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

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

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

20 (5) by adding at the end the following new sub-
21 paragraphs:

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

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

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

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

21 “(e) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the
22 date of the enactment of this section and annually there-
23 after for the following 5 years, the Secretary shall submit
24 to Congress a report that includes the following:

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

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

15 “(3) A description of how BEST advances the
16 Department’s homeland and border security stra-
17 tegic priorities and effectiveness of BEST in achiev-
18 ing related objectives.

19 “(4) An assessment of BEST’s joint operational
20 efforts with departmental Joint Task Force oper-

- 1 ations established pursuant to section 708 and other
- 2 joint cross-border initiatives.”.

Passed the House of Representatives May 17, 2017.

Attest:

Clerk.

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