

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 6391

To require the Department of Homeland Security to develop a comprehensive plan to identify, deploy, and integrate emerging technologies to achieve greater situational awareness along the northern and southern borders of the United States.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 13, 2023

Ms. SLOTKIN (for herself, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. GARBARINO, and Mr. DUARTE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

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## A BILL

To require the Department of Homeland Security to develop a comprehensive plan to identify, deploy, and integrate emerging technologies to achieve greater situational awareness along the northern and southern borders of the United States.

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 “Integrating New Tech-  
5 nologies to Empower Law Enforcement at Our Borders  
6 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Our border security is directly tied to our  
4 national security.

5 (2) U.S. Customs and Border Protection faces  
6 a daunting challenge in maintaining situational  
7 awareness along the United States northern and  
8 southern borders.

9 (3) The United States northern border is the  
10 longest common non-militarized border between two  
11 countries.

12 (4) The United States southern border is nearly  
13 2,000 miles long, stretching across rugged and var-  
14 ied terrain.

15 (5) Emerging technologies present an oppor-  
16 tunity to reduce current strains on manpower while  
17 improving situational awareness along the northern  
18 and southern borders.

19 (6) U.S. Customs and Border Protection is cur-  
20 rently testing a number of emerging technology pro-  
21 grams that will help improve situational awareness  
22 along the northern and southern borders.

23 (7) Successfully integrating these technologies  
24 into a layered border defense requires a strategic  
25 plan for transitioning new programs from the testing

1 and development stage to wide-scale implementation  
2 along both the northern and southern borders.

3 **SEC. 3. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO ACHIEVE GREATER SIT-**  
4 **UATIONAL AWARENESS ALONG THE NORTH-**  
5 **ERN AND SOUTHERN BORDERS OF THE**  
6 **UNITED STATES.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the  
8 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Home-  
9 land Security shall develop and submit to the Committee  
10 on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives  
11 and the Committee on Homeland Security and Govern-  
12 mental Affairs of the Senate a plan to identify, deploy,  
13 and integrate emerging and advanced technologies, such  
14 as artificial intelligence, machine-learning, automation,  
15 fiber-optic sensing technology, nanotechnology, optical and  
16 cognitive radar, modeling and simulation technology,  
17 hyperspectral and LIDAR sensors, imaging, identification,  
18 and categorization systems, and other similar emerging  
19 and advanced technologies, to achieve greater situational  
20 awareness along the northern and southern borders of the  
21 United States between ports of entry.

22 (b) CONTENTS.—The plan required under subsection  
23 (a) shall include the following:

24 (1) An assessment of how U.S. Customs and  
25 Border Protection (CBP) is currently utilizing

1 emerging and advanced technologies referred to in  
2 such subsection to achieve situational awareness  
3 along the northern and southern borders of the  
4 United States.

5 (2) An assessment of how border security capa-  
6 bility gaps can be addressed through the integration  
7 and deployment of such technologies.

8 (3) Cost estimates for the acquisition and main-  
9 tenance, as the case may be, of technologies referred  
10 to in such subsection.

11 (4) Metrics to measure how technologies re-  
12 ferred to in such subsection will assist in supporting  
13 CBP's mission.

14 (5) An assessment of how metrics referred to in  
15 paragraph (4) can be used to facilitate improve-  
16 ments in situational awareness at the northern and  
17 southern borders of the United States.

18 (6) An assessment of how the integration of  
19 such technologies will support the improvement of  
20 multi-domain awareness capabilities.

21 (7) An analysis of technologies used by other  
22 Federal departments and agencies not in use by  
23 CBP that could assist in improving situational  
24 awareness, and how such technologies would be uti-  
25 lized.

1           (8) An analysis of authorities CBP can use to  
2 procure technologies referred to in such subsection,  
3 and whether additional or alternative authorities are  
4 needed.

5           (9) An explanation of how CBP plans to scale  
6 existing programs related to emerging and advanced  
7 technologies and efficiently transition new tech-  
8 nology systems into programs of record.

9           (10) An assessment of CBP legacy technology  
10 programs that could be phased out and replaced by  
11 technologies referred to in such subsection and cost  
12 estimates relating to phasing out and replacing such  
13 programs.

14           (11) Information relating to how CBP is coordi-  
15 nating with the Department of Homeland Security’s  
16 Science and Technology Directorate to—

17                   (A) research and develop new technologies  
18 to meet mission needs and address gaps in situ-  
19 ational awareness; and

20                   (B) incentivize the private sector to de-  
21 velop technologies that will help meet mission  
22 needs to address gaps in situational awareness.

23           (c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “situa-  
24 tional awareness” has the meaning given such term in sec-  
25 tion 1092(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act

1 for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328; 6 U.S.C.  
2 223).

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