

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 725

To direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to make grants to certain border communities for the purpose of reimbursing such communities for expenses related to security measures along the United States land border with Mexico, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 1, 2023

Mr. JACKSON of Texas (for himself, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. BACON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to make grants to certain border communities for the purpose of reimbursing such communities for expenses related to security measures along the United States land border with Mexico, 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 “Reimbursing Border
5 Communities Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. BORDER COMMUNITY REIMBURSEMENT GRANT**
2 **PROGRAM.**

3 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to the availability of ap-
4 propriations, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall
5 make grants to certain border communities for the pur-
6 pose of reimbursing such communities for expenses related
7 to security measures along the United States land border
8 with Mexico, including additional wages for local law en-
9 forcement providing security for such border.

10 (b) **ELIGIBILITY.**—To be eligible for a grant under
11 this section, a border community—

12 (1) shall be a unit of local government located
13 in the United States within 200 miles of the land
14 border with Mexico;

15 (2) shall submit to the Secretary of Homeland
16 Security an application in such form, at such time,
17 and containing such information as the Secretary
18 determines appropriate; and

19 (3) may not be a sanctuary jurisdiction.

20 (c) **GRANT AMOUNT.**—A grant made under sub-
21 section (a) may not exceed \$500,000 for each fiscal year.

22 (d) **LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.**—Any grant
23 awarded under this section may not be used to reimburse
24 nonprofit organizations, to fund legal representation, or
25 to provide educational, housing, food, or healthcare re-
26 sources to an alien.

1 (e) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date
2 of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter
3 through 2033, the Secretary, acting through the Commis-
4 sioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, shall sub-
5 mit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House
6 of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Secu-
7 rity and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report that
8 includes—

9 (1) information relating to the—

10 (A) use of each grant made under sub-
11 section (a); and

12 (B) implementation of this section; and

13 (2) any recommendations of the Secretary for
14 improving the implementation of this section, includ-
15 ing with respect to the amount of funding provided
16 to each recipient of a grant under this section.

17 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 (1) The term “sanctuary jurisdiction” means a
19 State or unit of local government that—

20 (A) violates section 642 of the Illegal Im-
21 migration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility
22 Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1373);

23 (B) restricts compliance with a detainer
24 issued by the Secretary of Homeland Security
25 (or the Secretary’s designee); or

1 (C) has any law or policy in effect that vio-
2 lates the immigration laws.

3 (2) The term “alien” has the meaning given
4 such term in section 101 of the Immigration and
5 Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

6 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
7 authorized to be appropriated \$25,000,000 for each of fis-
8 cal years 2024 through 2034 to carry out this section.

9 (h) CONDITIONAL LIMITATION ON SECRETARY.—The
10 Secretary of Homeland Security may not use Federal
11 funds for travel, except for travel to and along the United
12 States land border with Mexico if—

13 (1) funds are appropriated to carry out this
14 section; and

15 (2) the Secretary fails to implement the pro-
16 gram under this section before the date that is 180
17 days after the appropriation of such funds.

○