

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1897

To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to enhance capabilities for outbound inspections at the southern land border, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 8, 2023

Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. LANKFORD) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to enhance capabilities for outbound inspections at the southern land border, 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 “Enhancing South-
5 bound Inspections to Combat Cartels Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
2 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
3 mittees” means—

4 (A) the Committee on Appropriations of
5 the Senate;

6 (B) the Committee on Homeland Security
7 and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

8 (C) the Committee on the Judiciary of the
9 Senate;

10 (D) the Committee on Appropriations of
11 the House of Representatives;

12 (E) the Committee on Homeland Security
13 of the House of Representatives; and

14 (F) the Committee on the Judiciary of the
15 House of Representatives.

16 (2) SOUTHERN BORDER.—The term “Southern
17 Border” means the international land border be-
18 tween the United States and Mexico.

19 **SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTEC-**
20 **TION PERSONNEL FOR SOUTHBOUND IN-**
21 **SPECTIONS.**

22 (a) CBP OFFICERS.—The Commissioner of U.S.
23 Customs and Border Protection shall hire, train, and as-
24 sign not fewer than 500 new officers to assist with inspec-

1 tions of pedestrians, cars, trucks, and other modes of
2 transportation traveling from the United States to Mexico.

3 (b) SUPPORT STAFF.—The Commissioner of U.S.
4 Customs and Border Protection is authorized to hire,
5 train, and assign such additional support staff as may be
6 necessary to support the functions carried out by the offi-
7 cers hired pursuant to subsection (a).

8 **SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL INSPECTION EQUIPMENT AND INFRA-**
9 **STRUCTURE.**

10 (a) IMAGING SYSTEMS.—The Commissioner of U.S.
11 Customs and Border Protection is authorized to purchase
12 up to 50 additional non-intrusive imaging systems, which
13 shall be deployed along the Southern Border for the pur-
14 pose of inspecting vehicles traveling from the United
15 States to Mexico.

16 (b) ALTERNATIVE EQUIPMENT.—The Commissioner
17 of U.S. Customs and Border Protection is authorized to
18 purchase additional alternative equipment that the Com-
19 missioner deems necessary for the purpose of inspecting
20 individuals or vehicles traveling from the United States
21 to Mexico.

1 **SEC. 5. ADDITIONAL HOMELAND SECURITY INVESTIGA-**
2 **TIONS PERSONNEL FOR INVESTIGATIONS OF**
3 **SOUTHBOUND SMUGGLING.**

4 (a) HSI SPECIAL AGENTS.—The Director of U.S.
5 Immigration and Customs Enforcement shall hire, train,
6 and assign not fewer than 100 new Homeland Security
7 Investigations special agents to assist with investigations
8 involving the smuggling of currency and firearms from the
9 United States to Mexico.

10 (b) SUPPORT STAFF.—The Director is authorized to
11 hire, train, and assign such additional support staff as
12 may be necessary to support the functions carried out by
13 the special agents hired pursuant to subsection (a).

14 **SEC. 6. REPORT.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
16 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Home-
17 land Security shall submit a report to the appropriate con-
18 gressional committees that—

19 (1) identifies infrastructure limitations at any
20 individual port that may limit the ability of U.S.
21 Customs and Border Protection to deploy additional
22 inspection equipment and inspect vehicles and pedes-
23 trians traveling from the United States to Mexico;

24 (2) identifies the number of dedicated outbound
25 traffic lanes that are being used at each port of
26 entry along the Southern Border;

1 (3) provides a detailed explanation of any plans
2 to expand the outbound lane capacity and inspection
3 capabilities at ports of entry along the Southern
4 Border; and

5 (4) describes any plans that would allow for the
6 use of alternative inspection sites near a port of
7 entry along the Southern Border.

8 (b) CLASSIFICATION.—The report submitted pursu-
9 ant to subsection (a), or any part of such report, may be
10 classified or provided with other appropriate safeguards
11 to prevent public dissemination.

12 **SEC. 7. MINIMUM MANDATORY SOUTHBOUND INSPECTION**
13 **REQUIREMENT.**

14 (a) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of Homeland Se-
15 curity shall ensure that 20 percent of all vehicles traveling
16 from the United States to Mexico are inspected before
17 leaving the United States, to the extent practicable.

18 (b) AUTHORIZED INSPECTION ACTIVITIES.—Inspec-
19 tions required pursuant to subsection (a) may include non-
20 intrusive imaging, physical inspections by officers or ca-
21 nine units, or other means authorized by the Secretary
22 of Homeland Security.

23 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the date
24 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland
25 Security shall submit a report to the appropriate congres-

1 sional committees that describes the staffing model that
2 will be used to carry out the inspection requirement de-
3 scribed in subsection (a).

4 **SEC. 8. SOUTHBOUND CURRENCY AND FIREARMS SEI-**
5 **ZURES QUARTERLY REPORT.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
7 date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days there-
8 after until the date that is 4 years after such date of en-
9 actment, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border
10 Protection shall submit a report to the appropriate con-
11 gressional committees that describes the seizure of cur-
12 rency, firearms, and ammunition attempted to be traf-
13 ficked from the United States to Mexico across the South-
14 ern Border.

15 (b) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted pursuant to
16 subsection (a) shall include, for the most recent 90-day
17 period for which such information is available—

18 (1) the total number of currency seizures that
19 occurred from outbound inspections at United States
20 land ports of entry along the Southern Border;

21 (2) the total dollar amount associated with the
22 currency seizures referred to in paragraph (1);

23 (3) the total number of firearms seized from
24 outbound inspections at United States land ports of
25 entry along the Southern Border;

1 (4) the total number of ammunition rounds
2 seized from outbound inspections at United States
3 land ports of entry along the Southern Border; and

4 (5) the total number of incidents of firearm sei-
5 zures and ammunition seizures that occurred at
6 United States land ports of entry along the South-
7 ern Border.

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