

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2291

AN ACT

To establish the Northern Border Coordination Center, 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 “Northern Border Co-
3 ordination Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) CENTER.—The term “Center” means the
7 Northern Border Coordination Center established
8 pursuant to section 3.

9 (2) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department”
10 means the Department of Homeland Security.

11 (3) NORTHERN BORDER.—The term “northern
12 border” means—

13 (A) the international border between the
14 United States and Canada; and

15 (B) the maritime border between Alaska
16 and the Russian Federation.

17 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
18 the Secretary of Homeland Security.

19 **SEC. 3. NORTHERN BORDER COORDINATION CENTER.**

20 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after
21 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
22 establish the Northern Border Coordination Center.

23 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Center shall be
24 to serve as the Department’s forward deployed centralized
25 coordination center for operations, domain awareness, in-
26 formation sharing, intelligence, training, and stakeholder

1 engagement with Federal, State, tribal, local, and inter-
2 national government partners along the northern border
3 of the United States. The Center shall be placed along
4 the northern border at a location that is collocated with
5 an existing U.S. Border Patrol sector headquarters, an Air
6 and Marine Operations branch, and a United States Coast
7 Guard air station, and other existing Department activi-
8 ties.

9 (c) COMPONENTS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Center shall collocate
11 personnel and activities of—

12 (A) U.S. Customs and Border Protection,
13 including U.S. Border Patrol and Air and Ma-
14 rine Operations;

15 (B) the United States Coast Guard;

16 (C) U.S. Immigration and Customs En-
17 forcement’s Homeland Security Investigations;

18 (D) other components and offices of the
19 Department that the Secretary determines to be
20 necessary, including to support the training,
21 technology testing, and development described
22 in subsection (d); and

23 (E) additional Federal, State, tribal, local,
24 and international government partners, as the
25 Secretary determines to be necessary and ap-

1 appropriate to support the coordination of oper-
2 ations described in this Act.

3 (d) FUNCTIONS.—The Center shall perform the func-
4 tions described in this subsection in addition to any other
5 functions assigned by the Secretary.

6 (1) NORTHERN BORDER STRATEGY.—The Cen-
7 ter, in collaboration with relevant offices and compo-
8 nents of the Department, shall—

9 (A) serve as a coordination mechanism for
10 operational components for the implementation,
11 evaluation, and updating of the Northern Bor-
12 der Strategy and any successor strategy; and

13 (B) support the development of best prac-
14 tices and policies for personnel at the northern
15 border to support such implementation.

16 (2) TRAINING.—The Center shall serve as a
17 training location to support the delivery of training
18 or exercises for Department personnel and Federal,
19 State, tribal, local, and international government
20 partners.

21 (3) METRICS.—The Center, in collaboration
22 with relevant offices and components of the Depart-
23 ment, shall coordinate the development and tracking
24 of border security metrics for the northern border.

1 (4) RESOURCE AND TECHNOLOGICAL NEEDS
2 AND CHALLENGES.—The Center, in collaboration
3 with relevant offices and components of the Depart-
4 ment, shall—

5 (A) identify resource and technological
6 needs or challenges affecting security along the
7 northern border; and

8 (B) serve as a testing ground and dem-
9 onstration location for the testing of border se-
10 curity technology, including determining such
11 technology’s suitability and performance in the
12 northern border and maritime environments.

13 (5) AIR AND MARINE OPERATIONS.—

14 (A) QUICK REACTION CAPABILITIES.—In
15 support of the Center, U.S. Customs and Bor-
16 der Protection’s Air and Marine Operations—

17 (i) shall establish and maintain capa-
18 bility that is collocated with the Center
19 and available for quick deployment in sup-
20 port of the northern border missions, U.S.
21 Customs and Border Protection, and the
22 Department, including missions in the
23 Great Lakes region; and

24 (ii) in coordination with the Center
25 and relevant offices and components of the

1 Department, shall evaluate requirements
2 and make recommendations to support the
3 operations of large unmanned aircraft sys-
4 tems based at the Center.

5 (B) NORTHERN BORDER DOMAIN AWARE-
6 NESS.—In order to coordinate with the Center
7 and support its operations, the Air and Marine
8 Operations Center shall collocate personnel and
9 resources with the Center to enhance the De-
10 partment’s capabilities to—

11 (i) support air and maritime domain
12 awareness and information sharing efforts
13 along the northern border;

14 (ii) provide dedicated monitoring of
15 northern border systems; and

16 (iii) lead, in coordination with other
17 U.S. Customs and Border Protection com-
18 ponents, Federal, State, tribal, local, and
19 international governments, and private sec-
20 tor partners, the Center’s efforts to track
21 and monitor legitimate cross-border traffic
22 involving unmanned aircraft and un-
23 manned aircraft systems.

24 (6) COUNTER-UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYS-
25 TEMS.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to policies es-
2 tablished by the Secretary, consistent with sec-
3 tion 210G of the Homeland Security Act of
4 2002 (6 U.S.C. 124n), the Center shall support
5 counter-unmanned aircraft systems operations
6 along the northern border to respond to the in-
7 creased use of unmanned aircraft systems. Such
8 support may involve development, testing, and
9 evaluation of technologies.

10 (B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
11 this Act may be construed to provide additional
12 authority related to detection, mitigation, re-
13 search, development, or testing of unmanned
14 aircraft systems or counter-unmanned aircraft
15 systems.

16 (7) PRIVACY AND CIVIL RIGHTS.—The Center,
17 in collaboration with the Chief Privacy Officer and
18 the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties of the
19 Department, shall ensure that operations and prac-
20 tices of the Center comply with the privacy and civil
21 rights policies of the Department and its compo-
22 nents.

23 (8) NONCONTIGUOUS NORTHERN BORDER.—
24 The Center, in collaboration with relevant offices
25 and components of the Department, shall—

1 (A) identify the specific challenges that
2 exist along the noncontiguous international land
3 border with Canada and the maritime border
4 with Russia, including resource, technological
5 challenges, and domain awareness;

6 (B) ensure that dedicated personnel, in-
7 cluding reachback support, are working to
8 evaluate and address the challenges identified
9 pursuant to subparagraph (A); and

10 (C) determine the feasibility of establishing
11 a satellite facility of the Center to address the
12 specific challenges identified pursuant to sub-
13 paragraph (A).

14 (e) ANNUAL REPORTING.—Not later than 180 days
15 after the establishment of the Center, and annually there-
16 after, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Com-
17 mittee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
18 of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the
19 Senate, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-
20 portation of the Senate, the Committee on Homeland Se-
21 curity of the House of Representatives, the Committee on
22 Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the
23 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the
24 House of Representatives that describes the activities of

1 the Center during the most recently concluded fiscal year,
2 including—

3 (1) personnel levels;

4 (2) additional resources that are needed to sup-
5 port the operations of the Center and northern bor-
6 der operations of the Department; and

7 (3) any additional assets or authorities that are
8 needed to increase security and domain awareness
9 along the northern border.

10 (f) TEMPORARY DUTY ASSIGNMENTS.—The Sec-
11 retary shall submit a quarterly report to the Committee
12 on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the
13 Senate, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Sen-
14 ate, the Committee on Homeland Security of the House
15 of Representatives, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs
16 of the House of Representatives regarding temporary duty
17 assignments of U.S. Border Patrol agents during the re-
18 porting period, including—

19 (1) the number of agents on temporary duty as-
20 signment;

21 (2) the duration of the temporary duty assign-
22 ment; and

23 (3) the sectors from which the agents were as-
24 signed.

1 (g) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The Center estab-
2 lished pursuant to subsection (a) shall be established sepa-
3 rate and distinct from the Secretary’s authorities under
4 section 708 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6
5 U.S.C. 348).

6 (h) SUNSET.—This Act shall cease to be effective on
7 the date that is 7 years after the date of the enactment
8 of this Act.

Passed the Senate June 5, 2024.

Attest:

Secretary.

118TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 2291

AN ACT

To establish the Northern Border Coordination
Center, and for other purposes.