

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4436

To establish Joint Operations Centers along the southern border of the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 21, 2022

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To establish Joint Operations Centers along the southern border of the United States, 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 “Advanced Border Co-
5 ordination Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) **CENTERS.**—The term “Centers” means the
9 Joint Operations Centers established under section

10 3(a).

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

3 (3) PARTICIPATING FEDERAL AGENCY.—The
4 term “participating Federal agency” means—

5 (A) the Department;

6 (B) the Department of Defense;

7 (C) the Department of Justice; and

8 (D) any other Federal agency as the Sec-
9 retary determines appropriate.

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

12 (5) STATE.—The term “State” means each
13 State of the United States, the District of Columbia,
14 and any territory or possession of the United States.

15 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT OPERATIONS CENTERS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the
17 date of enactment of this Act, the Department shall estab-
18 lish not less than 2 Joint Operations Centers along the
19 southern border of the United States to provide unified
20 coordination centers, where law enforcement from multiple
21 Federal, State, local, and Tribal agencies can collaborate
22 in accordance with the purposes described in subsection
23 (b).

1 (b) MATTERS COVERED.—The Centers shall provide
2 centralized operations hubs for matters related to the fol-
3 lowing:

4 (1) Implementing coordination and communica-
5 tion for field operations between participating Fed-
6 eral, State, local, and Tribal agencies, as needed.

7 (2) Coordinating operations across participating
8 Federal, State, local, and Tribal agencies, as needed,
9 including ground, air, and sea or amphibious oper-
10 ations.

11 (3) Coordinating and supporting border oper-
12 ations, including deterring and detecting criminal ac-
13 tivity related to—

14 (A) transnational criminal organizations;

15 (B) illegal border crossings;

16 (C) the seizure of weapons;

17 (D) the seizure of drugs;

18 (E) the seizure of high valued property;

19 (F) terrorism;

20 (G) human trafficking;

21 (H) drug trafficking; and

22 (I) such additional matters as the Sec-
23 retary considers appropriate.

24 (c) INFORMATION SHARING.—To ensure effective
25 transmission of information between participating Fed-

1 eral, State, local, and Tribal agencies, for purposes of sub-
2 section (b), coordination and communication shall in-
3 clude—

4 (1) Federal agencies sharing pertinent informa-
5 tion with participating State, local, and Tribal agen-
6 cies through the Centers; and

7 (2) Federal agencies notifying participating
8 State, local, and Tribal agencies of operations occur-
9 ring within the jurisdictions of those agencies.

10 (d) **WORKFORCE CAPABILITIES.**—The Centers
11 shall—

12 (1) track and coordinate deployment of partici-
13 pating personnel; and

14 (2) coordinate training, as needed.

15 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

16 Not later than 1 year after enactment of this Act,
17 and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall consult with
18 participating Federal agencies, and shall seek feedback
19 from participating State, local, and Tribal agencies, to re-
20 port to Congress—

21 (1) a description of the efforts undertaken to
22 establish the Centers;

23 (2) an identification of the resources used for
24 the operations of the Centers;

1 (3) a description of the key operations coordi-
2 nated and supported by each Center;

3 (4) a description of any significant interoper-
4 ability and communication gaps identified between
5 participating Federal, State, local, and Tribal agen-
6 cies within each Center;

7 (5) recommendations for improved coordination
8 and communication between participating Federal
9 agencies in developing and operating current and fu-
10 ture Centers; and

11 (6) other data as the Secretary determines ap-
12 propriate.

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