

105TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 1787

To authorize additional appropriations for United States Customs Service personnel and technology in order to expedite the flow of legal commercial and passenger traffic at United States land borders.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 17, 1998

Mr. GRAMM (for himself, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. KYL, Mr. GORTON, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. DOMENICI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

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## A BILL

To authorize additional appropriations for United States Customs Service personnel and technology in order to expedite the flow of legal commercial and passenger traffic at United States land borders.

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. AUTHORIZATION FOR UNITED STATES CUS-**  
4       **TOMS SERVICE.**

5       (a) IN GENERAL.—In order to enhance border inves-  
6       tigative resources on the Southwest border, enhance inves-  
7       tigative resources for anticorruption efforts, intensify ef-

1 forts against drug smuggling and money-laundering orga-  
 2 nizations, process cargo, reduce commercial and passenger  
 3 traffic waiting times, and open all primary lanes during  
 4 peak hours at certain ports on the Southwest and North-  
 5 ern borders, in addition to any other amount appropriated,  
 6 there are authorized to be appropriated for salaries, ex-  
 7 penses, and equipment for the United States Customs  
 8 Service for purposes of carrying out this section—

9 (1) \$161,248,584 for fiscal year 1999;

10 (2) \$185,751,328 for fiscal year 2000; and

11 (3) such sums as may be necessary in each fis-  
 12 cal year thereafter.

13 (b) FISCAL YEAR 1999.—Of the amounts authorized  
 14 to be appropriated under subsection (a)(1) for fiscal year  
 15 1999, \$48,404,000 shall be available until expended for  
 16 acquisition and other expenses associated with implemen-  
 17 tation and full deployment of narcotics enforcement and  
 18 cargo processing technology along the Southwest border,  
 19 including—

20 (1) \$6,000,000 for 8 Vehicle and Container In-  
 21 spection Systems (VACIS);

22 (2) \$11,000,000 for 5 mobile truck x-rays with  
 23 transmission and backscatter imaging;

24 (3) \$12,000,000 for the upgrade of 8 fixed-site  
 25 truck x-rays from the present energy level of

1        450,000 electron volts to 1,000,000 electron volts  
2        (1–MeV);

3            (4) \$7,200,000 for 8 1–MeV pallet x-rays;

4            (5) \$1,000,000 for 200 portable contraband de-  
5        tectors (busters) to be distributed among ports  
6        where the current allocations are inadequate;

7            (6) \$600,000 for 50 contraband detection kits  
8        to be distributed among all Southwest border ports  
9        based on traffic volume;

10          (7) \$500,000 for 25 ultrasonic container in-  
11        spection units to be distributed among all ports re-  
12        ceiving liquid-filled cargo and to ports with a haz-  
13        ardous material inspection facility;

14          (8) \$2,450,000 for 7 automated targeting sys-  
15        tems;

16          (9) \$360,000 for 30 rapid tire deflator systems  
17        to be distributed to those ports where port runners  
18        are a threat;

19          (10) \$480,000 for 20 Portable Treasury En-  
20        forcement Communications System (TECS) termi-  
21        nals to be moved among ports as needed;

22          (11) \$1,000,000 for 20 remote watch surveil-  
23        lance camera systems at ports where there are sus-  
24        picious activities at loading docks, vehicle queues,

1 secondary inspection lanes, or areas where visual  
2 surveillance or observation is obscured;

3 (12) \$1,254,000 for 57 weigh-in-motion sensors  
4 to be distributed among the ports with the greatest  
5 volume of outbound traffic;

6 (13) \$180,000 for 36 AM radio “Welcome to  
7 the United States” stations, with 1 station to be lo-  
8 cated at each border crossing;

9 (14) \$1,040,000 for 260 inbound vehicle  
10 counters to be installed at every inbound vehicle  
11 lane;

12 (15) \$950,000 for 38 spotter camera systems to  
13 counter the surveillance of Customs inspection ac-  
14 tivities by persons outside the boundaries of ports  
15 where such surveillance activities are occurring;

16 (16) \$390,000 for 60 inbound commercial truck  
17 transponders to be distributed to all ports of entry;

18 (17) \$1,600,000 for 40 narcotics vapor and  
19 particle detectors to be distributed to each border  
20 crossing; and

21 (18) \$400,000 for license plate reader auto-  
22 matic targeting software to be installed at each port  
23 to target inbound vehicles.

24 (c) FISCAL YEAR 2000 AND THEREAFTER.—Of the  
25 amount authorized to be appropriated under subsection

1 (a) (2) and (3) for fiscal year 2000 and each fiscal year  
 2 thereafter, \$4,840,400 shall be for the maintenance and  
 3 support of the equipment and training of personnel to  
 4 maintain and support the equipment described in sub-  
 5 section (b), based on an estimate of 10 percent of the cost  
 6 of such equipment.

7 (d) NEW TECHNOLOGIES: USE OF FUNDS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner of Cus-  
 9 toms may use the amounts authorized to be appro-  
 10 priated for equipment under this section for equip-  
 11 ment other than the equipment specified in sub-  
 12 section (b) if such other equipment—

13 (A)(i) is technologically superior to the  
 14 equipment specified in subsection (b); and

15 (ii) will achieve at least the same results at  
 16 a cost that is the same or less than the equip-  
 17 ment specified in subsection (b); or

18 (B) can be obtained at a lower cost than  
 19 the equipment authorized in paragraphs (1)  
 20 through (18).

21 (2) TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—Notwithstanding  
 22 any other provision of this section, the Commissioner  
 23 of Customs may reallocate an amount not to exceed  
 24 10 percent of the amount specified in any of para-  
 25 graphs (1) through (18) of subsection (b) for equip-

1       ment specified in any other of such paragraphs (1)  
2       through (18).

3       (e) PEAK HOURS AND INVESTIGATIVE RESOURCE  
4       ENHANCEMENT.—Of the amounts authorized to be appro-  
5       priated under subsection (a) for fiscal years 1999 and  
6       2000, \$112,844,584 in fiscal year 1999 and \$180,910,928  
7       for fiscal year 2000 shall be for—

8               (1) a net increase of 535 inspectors and 60 spe-  
9       cial agents for the Southwest border and 375 inspec-  
10      tors for the Northern border, in order to open all  
11      primary lanes on the Southwest and Northern bor-  
12      ders during peak hours and enhance investigative re-  
13      sources;

14             (2) a net increase of 285 inspectors and canine  
15      enforcement officers to be distributed at large cargo  
16      facilities as needed to process and screen cargo (in-  
17      cluding rail cargo) and reduce commercial waiting  
18      times on the Southwest border;

19             (3) a net increase of 360 special agents, 40 in-  
20      telligence analysts, and additional resources to be  
21      distributed among offices that have jurisdiction over  
22      major metropolitan drug or narcotics distribution  
23      and transportation centers for intensification of ef-  
24      forts against drug smuggling and money-laundering  
25      organizations;

- 1           (4) a net increase of 50 positions and additional  
2           resources to the Office of Internal Affairs to enhance  
3           investigative resources for anticorruption efforts;  
4           and  
5           (5) the costs incurred as a result of the increase  
6           in personnel hired pursuant to this section.

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