

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1199

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to reauthorize the Border Enforcement Security Task Force program within the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 22, 2017

Mrs. McCASKILL introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to reauthorize the Border Enforcement Security Task Force program within the Department of Homeland Security, 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 “Border Enforcement
5 Security Task Force Reauthorization Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. MODIFIED INSTRUCTIONS.**

2 (a) UPDATED CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE ESTAB-
3 LISHMENT OF UNITS.—Section 432(c)(2) of the Home-
4 land Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 240(c)) is amended—

5 (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),
6 by striking “shall consider” and inserting “shall
7 apply risk-based criteria that takes into consider-
8 ation”;

9 (2) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “, includ-
10 ing threats posed by transnational criminal organi-
11 zations” before the semicolon at the end;

12 (3) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and” at
13 the end;

14 (4) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period
15 at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

16 (5) by adding at the end the following:

17 “(E) the extent to which the BEST unit
18 would advance the Department’s homeland and
19 border security strategic priorities and related
20 objectives; and

21 “(F) whether departmental Joint Task
22 Force operations established pursuant to sec-
23 tion 708 and other joint cross-border initiatives
24 would be enhanced, improved, or otherwise as-
25 sisted by the BEST unit.”.

1 (b) PORT SECURITY.—Section 432(c) of the Home-
2 land Security Act of 2002, as amended by subsection (a),
3 is further amended by adding at the end the following:

4 “(4) PORT SECURITY BEST UNITS.—A BEST
5 unit established pursuant to paragraph (2) with a
6 port security nexus shall be composed of at least 1
7 member of each of the following:

8 “(A) The Coast Guard Investigative Serv-
9 ice.

10 “(B) The geographically responsible Coast
11 Guard Sector Intelligence Office.”.

12 (c) UPDATED REPORT ELEMENTS.—Section 432(e)
13 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 240(e))
14 is amended to read as follows:

15 “(e) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the
16 date of the enactment of this subsection, and annually
17 thereafter for the following 5 years, the Secretary shall
18 submit to Congress a report that includes—

19 “(1) a description of the effectiveness of BEST
20 in enhancing border security, disrupting and dis-
21 mantling transnational criminal organizations, and
22 reducing drug trafficking, arms smuggling, illegal
23 alien trafficking and smuggling, violence, and kid-
24 napping along and across the international borders
25 of the United States, as measured by crime statis-

1 tics, including violent deaths, incidents of violence,
2 and drug-related arrests;

3 “(2) an assessment of how BEST enhances in-
4 formation-sharing, including the dissemination of
5 homeland security information, among Federal,
6 State, local, tribal, and foreign law enforcement
7 agencies;

8 “(3) a description of how BEST advances the
9 Department’s homeland and border security stra-
10 tegic priorities and effectiveness of BEST in achiev-
11 ing related objectives; and

12 “(4) an assessment of BEST’s joint operational
13 efforts with departmental Joint Task Force oper-
14 ations established pursuant to section 708 and other
15 joint cross-border initiatives.”.

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