To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to increase penalties for individuals who illegally reenter the United States after being removed and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 5, 2017

Mr. Cruz (for himself, Mr. Perdue, Mr. Grassley, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Rubio, Mr. Inhofe, Mr. Sasse, Mr. Wicker, Mr. Boozman, and Mr. Cotton) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to increase penalties for individuals who illegally reenter the United States after being removed and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLES.

This Act may be cited as the “Stop Illegal Reentry Act” or as “Kate’s Law”.
SEC. 2. INCREASED PENALTIES FOR REENTRY OF REMOVED ALIEN.

Section 276 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1326) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively;

(2) by striking subsections (a) and (b) and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsections (b) and (e), any alien who—

“(1) has been denied admission, excluded, deported, or removed or has departed the United States while an order of exclusion, deportation, or removal is outstanding; and

“(2) thereafter enters, attempts to enter, or is at any time found in, the United States, unless—

“(A) prior to the alien’s reembarkation at a place outside the United States or the alien’s application for admission from foreign contiguous territory, the Secretary of Homeland Security has expressly consented to such alien’s reapplying for admission; or

“(B) with respect to an alien previously denied admission and removed, such alien shall establish that the alien was not required to ob-
tain such advance consent under this Act or any prior Act,

shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, imprisoned not more than five years, or both.

“(b) CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR REENTRY OF CERTAIN REMOVED ALIENS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the penalty under subsection (a), and except as provided in subsection (c), an alien described in subsection (a)—

“(A) who was convicted before such removal or departure of three or more misdemeanors involving drugs, crimes against the person, or both, or a felony (other than an aggravated felony), shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both;

“(B) who has been excluded from the United States pursuant to section 235(c) because the alien was inadmissible under section 212(a)(3)(B) or who has been removed from the United States pursuant to title V, and who thereafter, without the permission of the Secretary of Homeland Security, enters the United States, or attempts to do so, shall be fined under title 18, United States Code, and impris-
oned for a period of 10 years, which sentence
shall not run concurrently with any other sen-
tence;

“(C) who was removed from the United
States pursuant to section 241(a)(4)(B) who
thereafter, without the permission of the Sec-
retary of Homeland Security, enters, attempts
to enter, or is at any time found in, the United
States, shall be fined under title 18, United
States Code, imprisoned for not more than 10
years, or both; and

“(D) who has been denied admission, ex-
cluded, deported, or removed three or more
times and thereafter enters, attempts to enter,
crosses the border to, attempts to cross the bor-
der to, or is at any time found in the United
States, shall be fined under title 18, United
States Code, imprisoned not more than 10
years, or both.

“(2) REMOVAL DEFINED.—In this subsection
and in subsection (c), the term ‘removal’ includes
any agreement in which an alien stipulates to re-
moval during (or not during) a criminal trial under
either Federal or State law.
“(c) MANDATORY MINIMUM CRIMINAL PENALTY FOR REENTRY OF CERTAIN REMOVED ALIENS.—Notwithstanding the penalties provided in subsections (a) and (b), an alien described in subsection (a)—

“(1) who was convicted before such removal or departure of an aggravated felony; or

“(2) who was convicted at least two times before such removal or departure of illegal reentry under this section,

shall be imprisoned not less than five years and not more than 20 years, and may, in addition, be fined under title 18, United States Code.”; and

(3) in subsection (d), as redesignated by paragraph (1)—

(A) by striking “section 242(h)(2)” and inserting “section 241(a)(4)”; and

(B) by striking “Attorney General” and inserting “Secretary of Homeland Security”.

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