

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3722

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize a Joint Task Force to enhance integration of the Department of Homeland Security’s border security operations to detect, interdict, disrupt, and prevent narcotics, such as fentanyl and other synthetic opioids, from entering the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 11, 2019

Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. ROSE of New York, and Mr. MCCAUL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

A BILL

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize a Joint Task Force to enhance integration of the Department of Homeland Security’s border security operations to detect, interdict, disrupt, and prevent narcotics, such as fentanyl and other synthetic opioids, from entering 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 “Joint Task Force to
5 Combat Opioid Trafficking Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF JOINT TASK FORCE TO**
2 **COUNTER OPIOIDS.**

3 Subsection (b) of section 708 of the Homeland Secu-
4 rity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 348) is amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (2)(A), by adding at the end
6 the following new clause:

7 “(iv) Enhancing the integration of the
8 Department’s border security operations to
9 detect, interdict, disrupt, and prevent nar-
10 cotics, such as fentanyl and other synthetic
11 opioids, from entering the United States.”;

12 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (9) through
13 (13) as paragraphs (11) through (15), respectively;
14 and

15 (3) by inserting after paragraph (8) the fol-
16 lowing new paragraphs:

17 “(9) **ENGAGEMENT WITH THE PRIVATE SEC-**
18 **TOR.—**

19 “(A) **IN GENERAL.—**The Director of a
20 Joint Task Force may engage with representa-
21 tives from a private sector organization for the
22 purpose of carrying out the mission of such
23 Joint Task Force, and any such engagement
24 shall not be subject to the Federal Advisory
25 Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

1 “(B) ASSISTANCE FROM PRIVATE SEC-
2 TOR.—

3 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding
4 subsection (b)(1), the Secretary, with the
5 agreement of a private sector organization,
6 may arrange for the temporary assignment
7 of an employee of such organization to a
8 Joint Task Force in accordance with this
9 paragraph.

10 “(ii) AGREEMENT.—The Secretary
11 shall provide for a written agreement be-
12 tween the Department, the private sector
13 organization concerned, and the employee
14 concerned regarding the terms and condi-
15 tions of the assignment of such employee
16 under this paragraph.

17 “(C) NO FINANCIAL LIABILITY.—Any
18 agreement under this paragraph shall require
19 the private sector organization concerned to be
20 responsible for all costs associated with the as-
21 signment of an employee under this paragraph.

22 “(D) DURATION.—An assignment under
23 this paragraph may, at any time and for any
24 reason, be terminated by the Secretary or the
25 private sector organization concerned and shall

1 be for a total period of not more than two
2 years.

3 “(10) COLLABORATION WITH TASK FORCES
4 OUTSIDE DHS.—The Secretary may enter into a
5 memorandum of understanding by which a Joint
6 Task Force established under this section to carry
7 out any purpose specified in paragraph (2)(A) and
8 any other Federal, State, local, Tribal, territorial, or
9 international entity or task force established for a
10 similar purpose may collaborate for the purpose of
11 carrying out the mission of such Joint Task Force.”.

12 **SEC. 3. NOTIFICATION; REPORTING.**

13 (a) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 90 days after the
14 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Home-
15 land Security shall—

16 (1) make a determination regarding whether to
17 establish a Joint Task Force under section 708 of
18 the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to carry out the
19 purpose specified in clause (iv) of subsection
20 (b)(2)(A) of such section, as added by section 2 of
21 this Act; and

22 (2) submit to the Committee on Homeland Se-
23 curity of the House of Representatives and the Com-
24 mittee on Homeland Security and Governmental Af-
25 fairs of the Senate written notification of such deter-

1 mination, including, if such determination is in the
2 negative, information on the basis for such negative
3 determination.

4 (b) REPORTING.—If the Secretary of Homeland Se-
5 curity establishes a Joint Task Force under section 708
6 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to carry out the
7 purpose specified in clause (iv) of subsection (b)(2)(A) of
8 such section, as added by section 2 of this Act, the Sec-
9 retary shall—

10 (1) beginning with the first report required
11 under subsection (b)(6)(F) of such section 708, in-
12 clude with respect to such a Joint Task Force—

13 (A) a gap analysis of funding, personnel,
14 technology, or other resources needed in order
15 to detect, interdict, disrupt, and prevent nar-
16 cotics, such as fentanyl and other synthetic
17 opioids, from entering the United States; and

18 (B) a description of collaboration pursuant
19 to subsection (b)(10) of such section (as added
20 by section 2 of this Act) between such a Joint
21 Task Force and any other Federal, State, local,
22 Tribal, territorial, or international task force,
23 including the United States Postal Service and
24 the United States Postal Inspection Service;
25 and

1 (2) in each review required under subsection
2 (b)(11)(C) of section 708 of the Homeland Security
3 Act of 2002, as redesignated by section 2 of this
4 Act, an assessment of the activities of such a Joint
5 Task Force, including an evaluation of whether such
6 Joint Task Force has enhanced integration of the
7 Department's efforts, created any unique capabilities,
8 ties, or otherwise enhanced operational effectiveness,
9 coordination, or information sharing to detect, inter-
10 dict, disrupt, and prevent narcotics, such as fentanyl
11 and other synthetic opioids, from entering the
12 United States.

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