

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8056

To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to assess technology needs along the maritime border and develop a strategy for bridging such gaps, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 14, 2022

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN (for herself, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. PALAZZO, and Mr. WALTZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to assess technology needs along the maritime border and develop a strategy for bridging such gaps, 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 “Maritime Border Secu-
5 rity Technology Improvement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. MARITIME BORDER SECURITY TECHNOLOGY NEEDS**
2 **ANALYSIS AND UPDATES.**

3 (a) TECHNOLOGY NEEDS ANALYSIS.—Not later than
4 two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
5 Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional
6 committees a technology needs analysis for operational
7 and border security technology along the maritime border.

8 (b) CONTENTS.—The analysis required under sub-
9 section (a) shall include an assessment of—

10 (1) the operational and border security tech-
11 nology needs and gaps along the maritime border—

12 (A) to prevent terrorists and instruments
13 of terror from entering the United States;

14 (B) to combat and reduce criminal activity
15 related to the maritime border, including—

16 (i) the transport of illegal goods, such
17 as illicit drugs; and

18 (ii) human smuggling and human
19 trafficking;

20 (C) to enhance maritime domain aware-
21 ness;

22 (D) to enhance maritime detection and
23 interdiction capabilities;

24 (E) to enhance presence in the maritime
25 domain; and

1 (F) to facilitate the flow of legal trade
2 across the maritime border;

3 (2) recent technological advancements in—

4 (A) manned aircraft sensor, communica-
5 tion, and common operating picture technology;

6 (B) unmanned aerial systems, sensors, and
7 related technology with maritime surveillance
8 capability, including counter-unmanned aerial
9 system technology;

10 (C) unmanned maritime vessels with sur-
11 face and subsurface surveillance, detection, and
12 tracking capabilities over a wide area;

13 (D) maritime surveillance and detection
14 sensing capabilities for both emitting and non-
15 emitting threat vessels;

16 (E) coastal radar surveillance systems;

17 (F) nonintrusive inspection technology, in-
18 cluding non-X-ray devices and other advanced
19 detection technology;

20 (G) maritime signals intelligence capabili-
21 ties; and

22 (H) voice and data communications, com-
23 mand and control capabilities, and information
24 management and sharing capabilities;

1 (3) any other technological advancements that
2 the Secretary determines to be critical to the De-
3 partment's mission along the maritime border;

4 (4) whether the use of the technological ad-
5 vances described in paragraphs (2) and (3) will—

6 (A) improve maritime border security;

7 (B) improve the capability of the Depart-
8 ment to accomplish its mission along the mari-
9 time border;

10 (C) reduce operational and security gaps
11 along the maritime border; and

12 (D) enhance the safety of any officer or
13 agent of the Department or any other Federal
14 agency;

15 (5) the Department's ongoing maritime border
16 security technology development efforts, including ef-
17 forts by—

18 (A) the U.S. Coast Guard;

19 (B) U.S. Customs and Border Protection;

20 (C) the Science and Technology Direc-
21 torate of the Department; and

22 (D) the technology assessment office of
23 any other operational component of the Depart-
24 ment;

1 (6) any other technological needs or factors, in-
2 cluding maritime border security and shoreside in-
3 frastructure, that the Secretary determines should
4 be considered; and

5 (7) currently deployed technology or new tech-
6 nology that would improve the Department's abil-
7 ity—

8 (A) to reasonably achieve operational con-
9 trol and situational awareness along the mari-
10 time border; and

11 (B) to collect metrics for securing the mar-
12 itime border, as required under subsection (d)
13 of section 1092 of division A of the National
14 Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017
15 (6 U.S.C. 223).

16 (c) UPDATES.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than two years
18 after the submission of the analysis required under
19 subsection (a) and biannually thereafter for the fol-
20 lowing four years, the Secretary shall submit to the
21 appropriate congressional committees an update to
22 such analysis.

23 (2) CONTENTS.—Each update required under
24 paragraph (1) shall include a plan for utilizing the
25 resources of the Department to satisfy operational

1 and border security technology needs and gaps iden-
2 tified pursuant to subsection (b), including devel-
3 oping or acquiring technologies not currently in use
4 by the Department that would allow the Department
5 to bridge existing operational and border security
6 gaps along the maritime border.

7 (d) ITEMS TO BE CONSIDERED.—In compiling the
8 operational and border security technology needs analysis
9 and updates required under this section, the Secretary
10 shall consider and examine—

11 (1) technology that is deployed and is sufficient
12 for the Department’s use along the maritime border;

13 (2) technology that is deployed, but is insuffi-
14 cient for the Department’s use along the maritime
15 border;

16 (3) technology that is not deployed, but is nec-
17 essary for the Department’s use along the maritime
18 border;

19 (4) current formal departmental requirements
20 examining maritime border security threats and
21 challenges faced by any component of the Depart-
22 ment;

23 (5) trends and forecasts regarding migration
24 and the transport of illegal goods, such as illicit
25 drugs, across the maritime border;

1 (6) the impact on projected staffing and deploy-
2 ment needs for the Department, including staffing
3 needs that may be fulfilled through the use of tech-
4 nology;

5 (7) the needs and challenges faced by employees
6 of the Department who are deployed along the mari-
7 time border;

8 (8) the needs to improve cooperation among
9 Federal, State, territorial, Tribal, local, and appro-
10 priate international law enforcement entities to en-
11 hance security along the maritime border;

12 (9) the impact of any natural disaster or ongo-
13 ing public health emergency that impacts Depart-
14 ment operations along the maritime border; and

15 (10) the ability of, and the needs for, the De-
16 partment to assist with search and rescue efforts for
17 individuals or groups that may be in physical danger
18 or in need of medical assistance along the maritime
19 border.

20 (e) CLASSIFIED FORM.—To the extent possible, the
21 Secretary shall submit the technology needs analysis and
22 updates required under this section in unclassified form,
23 but may submit such documents, or portions of such docu-
24 ments, in classified form if the Secretary determines such
25 is appropriate.

1 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

2 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
3 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
4 mittees” means—

5 (A) the Committee on Homeland Security
6 of the House of Representatives;

7 (B) the Committee on Transportation and
8 Infrastructure of the House of Representatives;

9 (C) the Committee on Homeland Security
10 and Government Affairs of the Senate; and

11 (D) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
12 and Transportation of the Senate.

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

15 (3) MARITIME BORDER.—The term “maritime
16 border” means—

17 (A) the Great Lakes and the coastal areas
18 of the Southeastern and Southwestern United
19 States, including California, Florida, Puerto
20 Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, and the
21 Gulf Coast;

22 (B) the maritime approaches to the areas
23 described in subparagraph (A), including, if ap-
24 plicable, the waters extending from the United
25 States territorial sea baseline to the outer edge

1 of the 200 nautical mile Exclusive Economic
2 Zone;

3 (C) the ports of entry along the areas de-
4 scribed in subparagraph (A); and

5 (D) the transit zone.

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

8 (5) TRANSIT ZONE.—The term “transit zone”
9 has the meaning given such term in section
10 1092(a)(8) of the National Defense Authorization
11 Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (6 U.S.C. 223(a)(8)).

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