

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8644

To establish Joint Operations Centers along the southern border of the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 2, 2022

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio (for himself, Mrs. FLORES, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, and Mr. PAPPAS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish Joint Operations Centers along the southern border of 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 “Advanced Border Co-
5 ordination Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF JOINT OPERATIONS CENTERS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the
8 date of enactment of this Act, the Department shall estab-

1 lish not fewer than 2 Joint Operations Centers along the
2 southern border of the United States to provide unified
3 coordination centers, where law enforcement from multiple
4 Federal, State, local, and Tribal agencies can collaborate
5 in accordance with the purposes described in subsection
6 (b).

7 (b) MATTERS COVERED.—The Centers shall provide
8 centralized operations hubs for matters related to the fol-
9 lowing:

10 (1) Implementing coordination and communica-
11 tion for field operations between participating Fed-
12 eral, State, local, and Tribal agencies, as needed.

13 (2) Coordinating operations across participating
14 Federal, State, local, and Tribal agencies, as needed,
15 including ground, air, and sea or amphibious oper-
16 ations.

17 (3) Coordinating and supporting border oper-
18 ations, including deterring and detecting criminal ac-
19 tivity related to—

20 (A) transnational criminal organizations;

21 (B) illegal border crossings;

22 (C) the seizure of weapons;

23 (D) the seizure of drugs;

24 (E) the seizure of high valued property;

25 (F) terrorism;

- 1 (G) human trafficking;
- 2 (H) drug trafficking; and
- 3 (I) such additional matters as the Sec-
- 4 retary considers appropriate.

5 (c) INFORMATION SHARING.—To ensure effective

6 transmission of information between participating Fed-

7 eral, State, local, and Tribal agencies, for purposes of sub-

8 section (b), coordination and communication shall in-

9 clude—

10 (1) Federal agencies sharing pertinent informa-

11 tion with participating State, local, and Tribal agen-

12 cies through the Centers; and

13 (2) Federal agencies notifying participating

14 State, local, and Tribal agencies of operations occur-

15 ring within the jurisdictions of those agencies.

16 (d) WORKFORCE CAPABILITIES.—The Centers

17 shall—

18 (1) track and coordinate deployment of partici-

19 pating personnel; and

20 (2) coordinate training, as needed.

21 (e) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date

22 of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the

23 Secretary shall consult with participating Federal agen-

24 cies, and shall seek feedback from participating State,

25 local, and Tribal agencies, to report to Congress—

1 (1) a description of the efforts undertaken to
2 establish the Centers;

3 (2) an identification of the resources used for
4 the operations of the Centers;

5 (3) a description of the key operations coordi-
6 nated and supported by each Center;

7 (4) a description of any significant interoper-
8 ability and communication gaps identified between
9 participating Federal, State, local, and Tribal agen-
10 cies within each Center;

11 (5) recommendations for improved coordination
12 and communication between participating Federal
13 agencies in developing and operating current and fu-
14 ture Centers; and

15 (6) other data as the Secretary determines ap-
16 propriate.

17 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 (1) CENTERS.—The term “Centers” means the
19 Joint Operations Centers established under section
20 3(a).

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

23 (3) PARTICIPATING FEDERAL AGENCY.—The
24 term “participating Federal agency” means—

25 (A) the Department;

- 1 (B) the Department of Defense;
2 (C) the Department of Justice; and
3 (D) any other Federal agency as the Sec-
4 retary determines appropriate.

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

7 (5) STATE.—The term “State” means each
8 State of the United States, the District of Columbia,
9 and any territory or possession of the United States.

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