

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8015

To ensure the Department of Homeland Security is appropriately measuring the scope of certain border security matters, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 16, 2024

Mr. STANTON (for himself and Mr. CISCOMANI) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

A BILL

To ensure the Department of Homeland Security is appropriately measuring the scope of certain border security matters, 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 “Data for a Secured
5 Border Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. MATTERS RELATING TO BORDER SECURITY.**

7 (a) BORDER SECURITY METRICS.—

8 (1) ANNUAL REPORTS.—The Secretary of
9 Homeland Security, in coordination with the Execu-
10 tive Director of the Office of Homeland Security

1 Statistics, shall submit to the Committee on Home-
2 land Security, the Committee on the Judiciary, and
3 the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of
4 Representatives and the Committee on Homeland
5 Security and Governmental Affairs, the Committee
6 on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Foreign Re-
7 lations of the Senate an annual report that—

8 (A) assesses the usefulness of the border
9 security metrics described in section 1092 of
10 the National Defense Authorization Act for Fis-
11 cal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328; 6 U.S.C.
12 223) that are utilized in preparing the reports
13 required under such section; and

14 (B) makes recommendations for any up-
15 dates to such border security metrics.

16 (2) TIMING.—Each report under this subsection
17 shall be submitted at the same time as each report
18 required under such section 1092.

19 (b) JOINT CAPABILITIES.—Not later than one year
20 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
21 of Homeland Security, in cooperation and collaboration
22 with the Under Secretary for Management of the Depart-
23 ment of Homeland Security and the Deputy’s Manage-
24 ment Action Group (DMAG) of the Department, shall
25 submit to the Committee on Homeland Security, the Com-

1 mittee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Foreign
2 Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Com-
3 mittee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs,
4 the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on
5 Foreign Relations of the Senate a report that includes the
6 following:

7 (1) An assessment of the workforce, authorities,
8 and responsibilities of the Joint Requirements Coun-
9 cil (JRC) of the Department.

10 (2) A determination regarding whether the JRC
11 is meeting its intent, including whether the JRC im-
12 plements a joint requirements process or any addi-
13 tional responsibility that the Secretary has assigned
14 to it, including relating to the following:

15 (A) The validation of any evaluation, as
16 appropriate, by a component, support compo-
17 nent, or office, of the Department that—

18 (i) identifies any capability gaps,
19 redundancies, or overlaps; and

20 (ii) provides recommendations for ei-
21 ther materiel or nonmateriel solutions to
22 address any such capability gap, redun-
23 dancy, or overlap.

1 (B) The submission of such validation to
2 department leadership for consideration in in-
3 vestment decisions.

4 (3) An identification of the position within the
5 Department responsible for implementing a joint re-
6 quirements process that validates an evaluation by a
7 component of the Department that identifies any ca-
8 pability gaps, redundancies, or overlaps pursuant to
9 paragraph (2)(A).

10 (4) An identification of the officer or official of
11 the Department who oversees the JRC's activities
12 and responsibilities, including the JRC's reporting
13 responsibilities to the DMAG.

14 (5) A description of how the JRC is assisting
15 the Department's efforts in performing border secu-
16 rity-related missions and assisting incorporation of
17 technological advances into border management
18 based on available resources, such as the flow of
19 fentanyl across the border and the backlog of mi-
20 grant processing.

21 (6) A review of the progress of the Depart-
22 ment's engagement with the JRC to carry out the
23 following:

24 (A) Review the JRC's recommendations.

1 (B) Approve or direct related follow-on ac-
2 tivities.

3 (C) Provide direction and guidance to the
4 JRC.

5 (7) A review of the JRC's recommendations,
6 the approval and direct related follow-on activities,
7 and the direction and guidance to the JRC from the
8 Secretary or the Secretary's designee.

9 (8) A description of how Department senior
10 leadership makes use of JRC analyses and associ-
11 ated products.

12 (9) An evaluation of the placement of the JRC
13 within the Management Directorate of the Depart-
14 ment to ensure such placement aligns fully with the
15 JRC's mission and maintains the JRC's independ-
16 ence.

17 (10) An evaluation of the role of the JRC and
18 broader Department internal communications of
19 needs and requirements, and how the processes for
20 communicating and documenting such needs and re-
21 quirements can be improved at the Department.

22 (c) OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE NEEDS.—The reports
23 required under subsections (a) and (b) shall also be sub-
24 mitted to the following:

1 (1) Homeland Security Investigations of U.S.
2 Immigrations and Customs Enforcement, with any
3 illicit drug highlights.

4 (2) The Office of National Drug Control Policy
5 (ONDCP), with any illicit drug highlights.

6 (3) The Drug Enforcement Administration,
7 with any illicit drug highlights.

8 (4) The Federal Emergency Management Agen-
9 cy, with any migrant crossing surges that would
10 cross the threshold into emergency situations.

11 (5) The Department of Justice, including law
12 enforcement agencies of the Department, regarding
13 such Department's and agencies' related border
14 metrics.

15 (d) DEFINITION.—The terms “Joint Requirements
16 Council” and “JRC” include any successor entity.

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