

# Union Calendar No. 187

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1569

**[Report No. 119–229]**

To establish a pilot program to assess the use of technology to speed up and enhance the cargo inspection process at land ports of entry along the border.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 25, 2025

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana (for himself, Mr. MAGAZINER, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. HARIDOPOLOS, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. EVANS of Colorado, Mr. RILEY of New York, and Ms. CRAIG) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

AUGUST 15, 2025

Additional sponsors: Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. BAUMGARTNER, Mr. GUEST, Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. CALVERT, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. McDOWELL, and Ms. BYNUM

AUGUST 15, 2025

Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union  
and ordered to be printed

# **A BILL**

To establish a pilot program to assess the use of technology to speed up and enhance the cargo inspection process at land ports of entry along the border.

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 TITLES.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Contraband Awareness  
5 Technology Catches Harmful Fentanyl Act” or the  
6 “CATCH Fentanyl Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this Act:

9 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
10 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-  
11 mittees” means—

12 (A) the Committee on Homeland Security  
13 and Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and

14 (B) the Committee on Homeland Security  
15 of the House of Representatives.

16 (2) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE; AI.—The terms  
17 “artificial intelligence” and “AI” have the meaning  
18 given the term “artificial intelligence” in section  
19 238(g) of the John S. McCain National Defense Au-  
20 thorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law  
21 115–232; 10 U.S.C. 4061 note).

22 (3) CBP INNOVATION TEAM.—The term “CBP  
23 Innovation Team” means the U.S. Customs and  
24 Border Protection Innovation Team within the Of-  
25 fice of the Commissioner.

1           (4) NONINTRUSIVE INSPECTION TECHNOLOGY;  
 2           NII TECHNOLOGY.—The terms “nonintrusive inspec-  
 3           tion technology” and “NII technology” means tech-  
 4           nical equipment and machines, such as X-ray or  
 5           gamma-ray imaging equipment, that allow cargo in-  
 6           spections without the need to open the means of  
 7           transport and unload the cargo.

8           (5) PILOT PROJECTS.—The term “pilot  
 9           projects” means the projects required under section  
 10          3(a) for testing and assessing the use of technologies  
 11          to improve the inspection process at land ports of  
 12          entry.

13 **SEC. 3. PILOT PROJECTS ALLOWING ADDITIONAL TECH-**  
 14 **NOLOGY PROVIDERS TO PARTICIPATE IN IN-**  
 15 **SPECTING CARS, TRUCKS, AND CARGO CON-**  
 16 **TAINERS AT CERTAIN PORTS OF ENTRY.**

17          (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

18           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after  
 19          the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
 20          of Homeland Security, acting through CBP Innova-  
 21          tion Team, and in coordination with the Office of  
 22          Field Operations and the Department of Homeland  
 23          Security Science and Technology Directorate, shall  
 24          begin the implementation of pilot projects for testing  
 25          and assessing the use of technologies or technology

enhancements to improve the process for inspecting, including by increasing efficiencies of such inspections, any conveyance or mode of transportation at land ports of entry along the borders of the United States. The technologies or technology enhancements tested and assessed under the pilot projects shall be for the purpose of assisting U.S. Customs and Border Protection personnel to detect contraband, illegal drugs, illegal weapons, human smuggling, and threats on inbound and outbound traffic, in conjunction with the use of imaging equipment, radiation portal monitors, and chemical detectors.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In implementing the pilot projects at ports of entry, the CBP Innovation Team, in coordination with the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate, shall test and collect data regarding not fewer than 5 types of nonintrusive inspection technology enhancements that can be deployed at land ports of entry. The CBP Innovation Team shall test technology enhancements from not fewer than 1 of the following categories:

(i) Artificial intelligence.

- 1 (ii) Machine learning.
- 2 (iii) High-performance computing.
- 3 (iv) Quantum information sciences, in-
- 4 cluding quantum sensing.
- 5 (v) Other emerging technologies.

6 (B) IDENTIFICATION OF EFFECTIVE EN-  
7 HANCEMENTS.—The pilot projects shall identify  
8 the most effective types of technology enhance-  
9 ments to improve the capabilities of nonintru-  
10 sive inspection systems and other inspection  
11 systems used at land ports of entry based on—

12 (i) the technology enhancement’s abil-  
13 ity to assist U.S. Customs and Border  
14 Protection accurately detect contraband, il-  
15 legal drugs, illegal weapons, human smug-  
16 gling, or threats in inbound and outbound  
17 traffic;

18 (ii) the technology enhancement’s abil-  
19 ity to increase efficiencies of inspections to  
20 assist U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
21 address long wait times;

22 (iii) the technology enhancement’s  
23 ability to improve capabilities of aging de-  
24 tection equipment and infrastructure at  
25 land ports of entry;

(iv) the technology enhancement's safety relative to As Low As Reasonably Achievable (ALARA) standard practices;

(v) the ability to integrate the new technology into the existing workflow and infrastructure;

(vi) the technology enhancement's ability to incorporate automatic threat recognition technology using standard formats and open architecture;

(vii) the mobility of technology enhancements; and

(viii) other performance measures identified by the CBP Innovation Team.

(C) PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT.—The CBP Innovation Team may solicit input from representatives of the private sector regarding commercially viable technologies.

(D) COST EFFECTIVENESS REQUIREMENT.—In identifying the most effective types of technology enhancements under subparagraph (B), the pilot projects shall prioritize solutions that demonstrate the highest cost-effectiveness in achievement the objectives described in clauses (i) through (ix) of subparagraph (B).

1 Cost effectiveness shall account for improved  
2 detection capabilities, increased inspection effi-  
3 ciencies, reduced wait times, and total cost of  
4 implementation (including infrastructure up-  
5 grades and maintenance expenses).

6 (3) NONINTRUSIVE INSPECTION SYSTEMS PRO-  
7 GRAM.—The CBP Innovation Team shall work with  
8 existing nonintrusive inspection systems programs  
9 within U.S. Customs and Border Protection when  
10 planning and developing the pilot projects required  
11 under paragraph (1).

12 (4) DATA PRIVACY PROTECTIONS.—In imple-  
13 menting the pilot projects and utilizing new tech-  
14 nologies, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall  
15 safeguard the privacy and security of personal data  
16 collected during inspections through appropriate  
17 measures, including—

18 (A) adherence to relevant privacy laws and  
19 regulations;

20 (B) implementation of data anonymization  
21 techniques, if applicable; and

22 (C) regular audits to assess compliance  
23 with data privacy standards.

24 (5) SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DIREC-  
25 TORATE.—The CBP Innovation Team shall work



1 with the Department of Homeland Security Science  
2 and Technology Directorate to align existing non-  
3 intrusive inspection research and development efforts  
4 within the Science and Technology Directorate when  
5 planning and developing pilot projects required  
6 under paragraph (1).

7 (b) TERMINATION.—The pilot projects shall termi-  
8 nate on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enact-  
9 ment of this Act.

10 (c) REPORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than 3 years  
11 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and 180 days  
12 after the termination of the pilot projects pursuant to sub-  
13 section (b), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall sub-  
14 mit a report to the appropriate congressional committees  
15 that contains—

16 (1) an analysis of the effectiveness of tech-  
17 nology enhancements tested based on the require-  
18 ments described in subsection (a)(2);

19 (2) any recommendations from the testing and  
20 analysis concerning the ability to utilize such tech-  
21 nologies at all land ports of entry;

22 (3) a plan to utilize new technologies that meet  
23 the performance goals of the pilot projects across all  
24 U.S. Customs and Border Protection land ports of  
25 entry at the border, including total costs and a

1       breakdown of the costs of such plan, including any  
2       infrastructure improvements that may be required to  
3       accommodate recommended technology enhance-  
4       ments;

5           (4) a comprehensive list of existing technologies  
6       owned and utilized by U.S. Customs and Border  
7       protection for cargo and vehicle inspection, includ-  
8       ing—

9           (A) details on the implementation status of  
10       such technologies, such as whether the tech-  
11       nologies have been fully installed and utilized,  
12       or whether there are challenges with the instal-  
13       lation and utilization of the technology;

14          (B) an evaluation of the compatibility,  
15       interoperability, and scalability of existing cargo  
16       and vehicle inspection technologies within U.S.  
17       Customs and Border Protection’s physical and  
18       information technology infrastructure; and

19          (C) identification of any obstacles to the  
20       effective deployment and integration of such  
21       technologies; and

22          (5) the analysis described in subsection (d).

23       (d) AREAS OF ANALYSIS.—The report required under  
24       subsection (c) shall include an analysis containing—

1           (1) quantitative measurements of performance  
2       based on the requirements described in subsection  
3       (a)(2) of each technology tested compared with the  
4       status quo to reveal a broad picture of the perform-  
5       ance of technologies and technology enhancements,  
6       such as—

7           (A) the probability of detection, false alarm  
8       rate, and throughput; and

9           (B) an analysis determining whether such  
10      observed performance represents a significant  
11      increase, decrease, or no change compared with  
12      current systems;

13      (2) an assessment of the relative merits of each  
14      such technology;

15      (3) any descriptive trends and patterns ob-  
16      served; and

17      (4) performance measures for—

18           (A) the technology enhancement's ability to  
19      assist with the detection of contraband on in-  
20      bound and outbound traffic through automated  
21      (primary) inspection by measuring and report-  
22      ing the probability of detection and false alarm  
23      rate for each NII system under operational con-  
24      ditions;

1 (B) the throughput of cargo through each  
2 NII system with a technology enhancement, in-  
3 cluding a breakdown of the time needed for  
4 U.S. Customs and Border Protection—

5 (i) to complete the image review proc-  
6 ess and clear low-risk shipments; and

7 (ii) to complete additional inspections  
8 of high-risk items;

9 (C) changes in U.S. Customs and Border  
10 Protection officer time commitments and per-  
11 sonnel needs to sustain high volume NII scan-  
12 ning operations when technology enhancements  
13 are utilized; and

14 (D) operational costs, including—

15 (i) estimated implementation costs for  
16 each NII system with technology enhance-  
17 ments; and

18 (ii) estimated cost savings due to im-  
19 proved efficiency due to technology en-  
20 hancements, if applicable.

21 (e) PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES REPORTS.—The  
22 Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the  
23 CBP Innovation Team and other appropriate offices,  
24 shall—

1           (1) prior to the implementation of these tech-  
2 nologies, submit—

3           (A) a report or reports to the appropriate  
4 congressional committees regarding the poten-  
5 tial privacy, civil liberties, and civil rights im-  
6 pacts of technologies being tested under the  
7 pilot projects pursuant to this section, including  
8 an analysis of the impacts of the technology en-  
9 hancements on individuals crossing the United  
10 States border; and

11           (B) recommendations for mitigation meas-  
12 ures to address any identified impacts; and

13           (2) not later than 180 days after the termi-  
14 nation of the pilot projects pursuant to subsection  
15 (b), submit a report to the appropriate congressional  
16 committees containing—

17           (A) findings on the impacts to privacy,  
18 civil rights, and civil liberties resulting from the  
19 pilot projects;

20           (B) recommendations for mitigating these  
21 impacts in implementation of approved tech-  
22 nologies; and

23           (C) any additional recommendations based  
24 on the lessons learned from the pilot projects.

1       (f) PROHIBITION ON NEW APPROPRIATIONS.—No  
2 additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to  
3 carry out this Act.



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