

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 271

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to increase penalties for individuals who illegally reenter the United States after being removed, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 28, 2025

Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. BUDD, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. RICKETTS, and Mr. CORNYN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to increase penalties for individuals who illegally reenter the United States after being removed, 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 “Stop Illegal Reentry
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCREASED PENALTIES FOR REENTRY OF RE-**
2 **MOVED ALIEN.**

3 Section 276 of the Immigration and Nationality Act
4 (8 U.S.C. 1326) is amended—

5 (1) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as
6 subsections (e) and (f), respectively;

7 (2) by striking subsections (a) and (b) and in-
8 serting the following:

9 “(a) **DEFINED TERM.**—In this section, the term ‘re-
10 moval’ includes any agreement in which an alien stipulates
11 to removal during (or not during) a criminal trial under
12 either Federal or State law.

13 “(b) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to subsections (c) and
14 (d), any alien who—

15 “(1) has been denied admission, excluded, de-
16 ported, or removed or has departed the United
17 States while an order of exclusion, deportation, or
18 removal is outstanding; and

19 “(2) thereafter enters, attempts to enter, or is
20 at any time found in, the United States, unless—

21 “(A) prior to the alien’s reembarkation at
22 a place outside the United States or the alien’s
23 application for admission from foreign contig-
24 uous territory, the Secretary of Homeland Se-
25 curity has expressly consented to such alien’s
26 reapplying for admission; or

1 “(B) with respect to an alien previously de-
2 nied admission and removed, such alien shall
3 establish that the alien was not required to ob-
4 tain such advance consent under this Act or
5 any prior Act,
6 shall be fined under title 18, United States Code,
7 imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.

8 “(c) CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR REENTRY OF CER-
9 TAIN REMOVED ALIENS.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the pen-
11 alty under subsection (b), and except as provided in
12 subsection (d), an alien described in subsection (b)—

13 “(A) who was convicted before such re-
14 moval or departure of 3 or more misdemeanors
15 involving drugs, crimes against the person, or
16 both, or a felony (other than an aggravated fel-
17 ony), shall be fined under title 18, United
18 States Code, imprisoned not more than 10
19 years, or both;

20 “(B) who has been excluded from the
21 United States pursuant to section 235(c) be-
22 cause the alien was inadmissible under section
23 212(a)(3)(B) or who has been removed from
24 the United States pursuant to title V, and who
25 thereafter, without the permission of the Sec-

1 retary of Homeland Security, enters the United
2 States, or attempts to do so, shall be fined
3 under title 18, United States Code, and impris-
4 oned for a period of 10 years, which sentence
5 shall not run concurrently with any other sen-
6 tence;

7 “(C) who was removed from the United
8 States pursuant to section 241(a)(4)(B) who
9 thereafter, without the permission of the Sec-
10 retary of Homeland Security, enters, attempts
11 to enter, or is at any time found in, the United
12 States, shall be fined under title 18, United
13 States Code, imprisoned for not more than 10
14 years, or both; and

15 “(D) who has been denied admission, ex-
16 cluded, deported, or removed 3 or more times
17 and thereafter enters, attempts to enter, crosses
18 the border to, attempts to cross the border to,
19 or is at any time found in the United States,
20 shall be fined under title 18, United States
21 Code, imprisoned not more than 10 years, or
22 both.

23 “(d) MANDATORY MINIMUM CRIMINAL PENALTY FOR
24 REENTRY OF CERTAIN REMOVED ALIENS.—Notwith-

1 standing the penalties provided in subsections (b) and (c),
2 an alien described in subsection (b)—

3 “(1) who was convicted before such removal or
4 departure of an aggravated felony; or

5 “(2) who was convicted at least twice before
6 such removal or departure of illegal reentry under
7 this section,

8 shall be imprisoned not less than 5 years and not more
9 than 20 years, and may, in addition, be fined under title
10 18, United States Code.”;

11 (3) in subsection (e), as redesignated—

12 (A) by striking “section 242(h)(2)” and in-
13 serting “section 241(a)(4)”; and

14 (B) by striking “Attorney General” and in-
15 serting “Secretary of Homeland Security”; and

16 (4) in subsection (f), as redesignated, in the
17 matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “sub-
18 section (a)(1) or subsection (b)” and inserting “sub-
19 section (b)(1) or (c)”.

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