

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 548

To amend the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 to require a Caribbean border counternarcotics strategy, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 12, 2025

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. PADILLA) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 to require a Caribbean border counternarcotics strategy, 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 “Caribbean Border
5 Counternarcotics Strategy Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CARIBBEAN BORDER COUNTERNARCOTICS STRAT-**
2 **EGY ACT.**

3 (a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 702 of the Office of Na-
4 tional Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998
5 (21 U.S.C. 1701) is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (15) through
7 (17) as paragraphs (16) through (18), respectively;

8 (2) by inserting after paragraph (14) the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(15) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means each of
11 the several States of the United States, the District
12 of Columbia, and each territory or possession of the
13 United States.”;

14 (3) by amending paragraph (18), as redesign-
15 nated—

16 (A) by redesignating subparagraphs (G)
17 and (H) as subparagraphs (H) and (I), respec-
18 tively; and

19 (B) by inserting after subparagraph (F)
20 the following:

21 “(G) activities to map, track, dismantle,
22 and disrupt the financial networks of drug traf-
23 ficking organizations, transnational criminal or-
24 ganizations, and money laundering organiza-
25 tions involved in the manufacture and traf-

1 ficking of drugs in the United States and in
2 foreign countries;” and

3 (4) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(19) UNITED STATES.—The term ‘United
5 States’, when used in a geographical sense, means
6 all of the States, the District of Columbia, and the
7 territories and possessions of the United States, and
8 any waters within the jurisdiction of the United
9 States.”.

10 (b) REQUIREMENT FOR CARIBBEAN BORDER COUN-
11 TERNARCOTICS STRATEGY.—Section 706(c)(3) of the Of-
12 fice of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act
13 of 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1705(c)(3)) is amended by adding at
14 the end the following:

15 “(D) REQUIREMENT FOR CARIBBEAN BOR-
16 DER COUNTERNARCOTICS STRATEGY.—

17 “(i) PURPOSES.—The Caribbean Bor-
18 der Counternarcotics Strategy shall—

19 “(I) set forth the strategy of the
20 Federal Government for preventing
21 the illegal trafficking of drugs through
22 the Caribbean region into the United
23 States, including through ports of
24 entry, between ports of entry, and
25 across air and maritime approaches;

1 “(II) describe the specific roles
2 and responsibilities of each relevant
3 National Drug Control Program agen-
4 cy for implementing such strategy;

5 “(III) identify the specific re-
6 sources required to enable the relevant
7 National Drug Control Program agen-
8 cies to implement such strategy; and

9 “(IV) be designed to promote,
10 and not to hinder, legitimate trade
11 and travel.

12 “(ii) SPECIFIC CONTENT RELATED TO
13 PUERTO RICO AND THE UNITED STATES
14 VIRGIN ISLANDS.—The Caribbean Border
15 Counternarcotics Strategy shall include—

16 “(I) a strategy to prevent the il-
17 legal trafficking of drugs to or
18 through Puerto Rico or the United
19 States Virgin Islands, including meas-
20 ures to substantially reduce drug-re-
21 lated violent crime on such islands;
22 and

23 “(II) recommendations for addi-
24 tional assistance or authorities, if any,
25 needed by Federal, State, and local

1 law enforcement agencies relating to
2 the strategy, including an evaluation
3 of Federal technical and financial as-
4 sistance, infrastructure capacity build-
5 ing, and interoperability deficiencies.”.

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