

SPECIAL INTEREST ALIEN REPORTING ACT OF 2025

JUNE 17, 2025.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, from the Committee on Homeland Security, submitted the following

R E P O R T

together with

MINORITY VIEWS

[To accompany H.R. 275]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Homeland Security, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 275) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to publish on a monthly basis the number of special interest aliens encountered attempting to unlawfully enter the United States, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

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The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Special Interest Alien Reporting Act of 2025”.

SEC. 2. PUBLICATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY OF THE NUMBER OF SPECIAL INTEREST ALIENS ENCOUNTERED.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than the seventh day of each month beginning with the first full month that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall publish on a publicly available webpage of the Department of Homeland Security and submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the total number, and an identification of the nationalities or countries of last habitual residence, of special interest aliens encountered by the Department during the immediately preceding month. Each such report shall also include the following:

(1) Such number disaggregated by geographic regions of such encounters.

(2) Specifications relating to whether such encounters were made at land, air, or sea ports of entry, between ports of entry, or in the interior of the United States.

(3) Identification of any such nationalities or countries of last habitual residence that are covered nations.

(b) **INCLUSION.**—The first report required under subsection (a) shall also include the matters described in such subsection for the time period from January 20, 2021, through January 19, 2025.

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **ALIEN.**—The term “alien” has the meaning given such term in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

(2) **COVERED NATION.**—The term “covered nation” has the meaning given such term in section 4872(d)(2) of title 10, United States Code.

(3) **SPECIAL INTEREST ALIEN.**—The term “special interest alien” means an alien who, based on an analysis of travel patterns, potentially poses a national security risk to the United States or its interests.

PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

H.R. 275, the “Special Interest Alien Reporting Act of 2024,” requires the Secretary of Homeland Security (DHS) to publish accessible monthly reports on the number of special interest aliens (SIA), to include specifications on the encounter location and their country of origin.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

An SIA is a non-U.S. person who, based on a DHS analysis of travel patterns, may pose a national security risk to the United States or its interests. DHS analysis includes an examination of travel patterns, points of origin, and/or travel segments associated with current assessments of national and international threat environments.

Under the Biden administration, DHS faced an unprecedented number of SIAs from outside the Western Hemisphere, including individuals from adversarial nations including the People’s Republic of China, Iran, and Russia.¹ For instance, according to Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) data, apprehensions of Chinese foreign nationals nationwide increased from approximately 350 in FY 2021 to nearly 38,000 in FY 2024.² Record migration flows led to increases in SIAs traversing the region on their way to the South-

¹*Immigration Enforcement and Legal Processes Monthly Tables*, U.S. DEP’T OF HOMELAND SEC., <https://www.dhs.gov/ohss/topics/immigration/enforcement-and-legal-processes-monthly-tables> (last visited Jan. 16, 2025).

²*Nationwide Encounters*, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/nationwide-encounters> (last visited May 12, 2025).

west border, with most SIAs traveling through the region using established migrant routes in Central and South America.³

DHS does not currently publicly publish the number of SIA encounters.

HEARINGS

The Committee held the following hearings in the 119th Congress that informed H.R. 275:

On March 5, 2025, the Committee held a hearing entitled “Countering Threats Posed by the Chinese Communist Party to U.S. National Security.” The Committee received testimony from Dr. Michael Pillsbury, Senior Fellow, China Strategy, The Heritage Foundation; Mr. Craig Singleton, China Program Senior Director and Senior Fellow, Foundation for Defense of Democracies; the Honorable William R. Evanina, Founder and CEO, the Evanina Group; and Dr. Rush Doshi, Assistant Professor of Security Studies, Georgetown University Walsh School of Foreign Service, C.V. Starr Senior Fellow for Asia Studies and Director of the China Strategy Initiative, Council on Foreign Relations.

On March 25, 2025, the Subcommittee on Border Security and Enforcement held a hearing entitled “Part 1: Consequences of Failure: How Biden’s Policies Fueled the Border Crisis.” The Subcommittee received testimony from Ms. Lora Reis, Director, Border Security and Immigration Center, The Heritage Foundation; Mr. Ammon Blair, Senior Fellow, Secure and Sovereign Texas Initiative, Texas Public Policy Foundation; Mr. Jon Anfinson, Executive Vice President, National Border Patrol Council; and Mr. Aaron Reichlin-Melnick, Senior Fellow, American Immigration Council.

COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

The Committee met on April 9, 2025, a quorum being present, to consider H.R. 275 and ordered the measure to be favorably reported to the House, as amended, by a recorded vote of 15 Yeas to 12 Nays.

COMMITTEE VOTES

Clause 3(b) of rule XIII requires the Committee to list the recorded votes on the motion to report legislation and amendments thereto.

The vote was as follows:

³United States Southern Command, Information Paper, Region: Special Interest Migrant Baseline (2023).

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY		
119 TH CONGRESS		
Date: April 9, 2025		
Roll Call Vote No. 04		
H.R. 275, Motion to favorably report, as amended		
Yeas		Nays
	Mr. McCaul, Texas	
X	Mr. Higgins, Louisiana	
X	Mr. Guest, Mississippi	
X	Mr. Gimenez, Florida	
X	Mr. Pfluger, Texas	
	Mr. Garbarino, New York	
X	Ms. Greene, Georgia	
	Mr. Gonzales, Texas	
X	Mr. Luttrell, Texas	
X	Mr. Strong, Alabama	
X	Mr. Brecheen, Oklahoma	
X	Mr. Crane, Arizona	
X	Mr. Ogles, Tennessee	
X	Mrs. Biggs, South Carolina	
X	Mr. Evans, Colorado	
X	Mr. Mackenzie, Pennsylvania	
X	Mr. Knott, North Carolina	
	<i>Mr. Thompson, Mississippi, Ranking Member</i>	X
	<i>Mr. Swalwell, California</i>	
	<i>Mr. Correa, California</i>	X
	<i>Mr. Thanedar, Michigan</i>	X
	<i>Mr. Magaziner, Rhode Island</i>	X
	<i>Mr. Goldman, New York</i>	X
	<i>Mrs. Ramirez, Illinois</i>	X
	<i>Mr. Kennedy, New York</i>	X
	<i>Mrs. McIver, New Jersey</i>	X
	<i>Ms. Johnson, Texas</i>	X
	<i>Mr. Hernández, Puerto Rico</i>	X
	<i>Ms. Pou, New Jersey</i>	
	<i>Mr. Carter, Louisiana</i>	X
	<i>Mr. Garcia, California</i>	X
X	Mr. Green, Tennessee, Chairman	
15	TOTAL	12

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS

In compliance with clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII, the Committee advises that the findings and recommendations of the Committee, based on oversight activities under clause 2(b)(1) of rule X, are incorporated in the descriptive portions of this report.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ESTIMATE, NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY, ENTITLEMENT AUTHORITY, AND TAX EXPENDITURES

With respect to the requirements of clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, and with respect to the requirements of clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII and section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee adopts as its own the estimate of any new budget authority, spending authority, credit authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or tax expenditures contained in the cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office.

H.R. 275, Special Interest Alien Reporting Act of 2025			
As ordered reported by the House Committee on Homeland Security on April 9, 2025			
By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2025	2025-2030	2025-2035
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	*	not estimated
Increases <i>net direct spending</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2036?	No	Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No
		Mandate Effects	
Increases <i>on-budget deficits</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2036?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between zero and \$500,000.			

H.R. 275 would require the Department of Homeland Security to publish, on a publicly available website, a monthly report on the number and nationalities of Special Interest Aliens encountered by the department during the previous month. Special Interest Aliens are non-U.S. nationals who, based on an analysis of their travel patterns, potentially pose national security risks to the United States.

On the basis of information about similar reporting requirements, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2025–2030 period. Such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is David Rafferty. The estimate was reviewed by Christina Hawley Anthony, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,
Director, Congressional Budget Office.

FEDERAL MANDATES STATEMENT

The Committee adopts as its own the estimate of Federal mandates prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 423 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995.

DUPLICATIVE FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Pursuant to clause 3(c) of rule XIII, the Committee finds that H.R. 275 does not contain any provision that establishes or reauthorizes a program known to be duplicative of another Federal program.

STATEMENT OF GENERAL PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the objective of H.R. 275 is to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to publish, on a monthly basis, the number of special interest aliens encountered attempting to unlawfully enter the United States.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, AND LIMITED
TARIFF BENEFITS

In compliance with rule XXI, this bill, as reported, contains no congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of rule XXI.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE STATEMENT

No advisory committees within the meaning of section 5(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act were created by this legislation.

APPLICABILITY TO THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that H.R. 275 does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS OF THE LEGISLATION

Section 1. Short title

This section states that the Act may be cited as the “Special Interest Alien Reporting Act of 2024.”

Section 2. Publication by the Department of Homeland Security of the number of special interest aliens encountered attempting to unlawfully enter the United States

Sec. 2(a) requires DHS to publish the total number, and identification of the nationalities and countries of last habitual residence of SIAs by the seventh day of each month. The report shall include information including the number of SIAs encountered, disaggregated by geographic regions of such encounters; specifications related to whether the encounters were at land, air, or sea ports of entry, between ports of entry, or in the interior of the United States; and identification of such nationalities or countries of last habitual residence that are covered nations.

Sec. 2(b)(1) defines the term “aliens” as the meaning given in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (U.S.C. 1101).

Sec. 2(b)(2) defines the term “covered nation” as the meaning given in section 4872(d)(2) of title 10, United States Code.

Sec. 2(b)(3) defines the term “special interest alien” as an alien who, based on analysis of travel patterns, potentially poses a national security risk to the United States or its interests.

MINORITY VIEWS

Committee Democrats support efforts to improve transparency and accountability at the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). However, such efforts should be carefully crafted so that the information released cannot be easily exploited by criminals and other bad actors. As reported out of committee, H.R. 275 could make American communities less safe by tipping off bad actors about law enforcement practices.

More specifically, H.R. 275 would require U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to publicly report sensitive national security information every month, giving bad actors real-time updates on DHS operations. This includes requiring the Secretary of Homeland Security to publish not only the number of special interest aliens (SIAs) encountered every month by DHS, but also their nationalities or countries of last habitual residence and where they attempted to cross the border.

It is also important to note that the term “special interest alien” does not indicate that there is specific derogatory information about any given individual. Instead, the SIA designation indicates that an individual’s travel patterns suggest a need for further investigation.¹ According to public reporting, an internal Border Patrol document states that migrants could be deemed SIAs solely based on their country of origin.² If such reporting is accurate, publicly reporting the countries of migrants receiving additional screening every month via the SIA designation would be a boon to transnational criminal organizations. Criminal organizations could use this information to adjust their operations to attempt to evade detection, including helping bad actors determine when it is in their interest to destroy identification documents and lie about their origins. This would make American communities less safe.

Furthermore, DHS considers specific, identifying information about SIAs to be law-enforcement sensitive information. According to the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, “law enforcement sensitive (LES) refers to unclassified information originated by agencies with law enforcement missions that may be used in criminal prosecution and requires protection against unauthorized disclosure to protect sources and methods, investigative activity, evidence, or the integrity of pretrial investigative reports.”³ Identifying information about SIAs is considered LES because the term is dynamic, and thus releasing specifics about SIA in real-time

¹*Myth/Fact: Known and Suspected Terrorist/Special Interest Aliens*, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (Jan. 7, 2019), <https://www.dhs.gov/archive/news/2019/01/07/mythfact-known-and-suspected-terroristsspecial-interest-aliens>.

²Jennie Taer, *Exclusive: Feds Flagged Nearly 75,000 Illegal Migrants As Potential National Security Risk*, THE DAILY CALLER (Sept. 1, 2023), <https://dailycaller.com/2023/09/01/illegal-migrants-national-security-risk/> [<https://web.archive.org/web/20240613172259/https://dailycaller.com/2023/09/01/illegal-migrants-national-security-risk/>].

³*JCAT Intelligence Guide for First Responders*, OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, https://www.dni.gov/nctc/jcat/jcat_ctguide/intel_guide.html (accessed June 16, 2025).

could help criminals and terrorists understand who DHS is targeting for additional screening and where this screening is occurring, and then use that information to attempt to avoid the enhanced screenings intended to protect public safety.

Finally, DHS is not currently prevented from publishing the information required by this legislation should the Secretary no longer deem it a potential threat to do so. In other words, this bill is totally unnecessary except to overrule the judgment of the Department that publishing such information would make Americans less safe.

In summary, Committee Democrats support greater transparency from the Department of Homeland Security, but such efforts must be done in a manner that also protects public safety. Unfortunately, H.R. 275 does not strike the necessary balance.

BENNIE G. THOMPSON.

