

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9667

To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to enhance capabilities for outbound inspections at the southern land border, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2024

Ms. SPANBERGER (for herself and Mr. CRENSHAW) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to enhance capabilities for outbound inspections at the southern land border, 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 “Enhancing South-
5 bound Inspections to Combat Cartels Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
2 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
3 mittees” means—

4 (A) the Committee on Appropriations of
5 the Senate;

6 (B) the Committee on Homeland Security
7 and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

8 (C) the Committee on the Judiciary of the
9 Senate;

10 (D) the Committee on Appropriations of
11 the House of Representatives;

12 (E) the Committee on Homeland Security
13 of the House of Representatives; and

14 (F) the Committee on the Judiciary of the
15 House of Representatives.

16 (2) SOUTHERN BORDER.—The term “Southern
17 Border” means the international land border be-
18 tween the United States and Mexico.

19 **SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTEC-**
20 **TION PERSONNEL FOR SOUTHBOUND IN-**
21 **SPECTIONS.**

22 (a) CBP OFFICERS.—The Commissioner of U.S.
23 Customs and Border Protection shall hire, train, and as-
24 sign not fewer than 500 new officers to assist with inspec-

1 tions of pedestrians, cars, trucks, and other modes of
2 transportation traveling from the United States to Mexico.

3 (b) SUPPORT STAFF.—The Commissioner of U.S.
4 Customs and Border Protection is authorized to hire,
5 train, and assign such additional support staff as may be
6 necessary to support the functions carried out by the offi-
7 cers hired pursuant to subsection (a).

8 **SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL INSPECTION EQUIPMENT AND INFRA-**
9 **STRUCTURE.**

10 (a) IMAGING SYSTEMS.—The Commissioner of U.S.
11 Customs and Border Protection is authorized—

12 (1) to purchase up to 50 additional non-intru-
13 sive imaging systems; and

14 (2) to procure additional associated supporting
15 infrastructure.

16 (b) DEPLOYMENT.—The systems and infrastructure
17 purchased or otherwise procured pursuant to subsection
18 (a) shall be deployed along the Southern Border for the
19 primary purpose of inspecting any persons, conveyances,
20 or modes of transportation traveling from the United
21 States to Mexico.

22 (c) ALTERNATIVE EQUIPMENT.—The Commissioner
23 of U.S. Customs and Border Protection is authorized to
24 procure additional infrastructure or alternative inspection
25 equipment that the Commissioner deems necessary for the

1 purpose of inspecting any persons, conveyances, or modes
2 of transportation traveling from the United States to Mex-
3 ico.

4 (d) SUNSET.—Subsections (a) and (c) shall cease to
5 have force and effect beginning on the date that is 5 years
6 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

7 **SEC. 5. ADDITIONAL HOMELAND SECURITY INVESTIGA-**
8 **TIONS PERSONNEL FOR INVESTIGATIONS OF**
9 **SOUTHBOUND SMUGGLING.**

10 (a) HSI SPECIAL AGENTS.—The Director of U.S.
11 Immigration and Customs Enforcement shall hire, train,
12 and assign—

13 (1) not fewer than 100 new Homeland Security
14 Investigations special agents to primarily assist with
15 investigations involving the smuggling of currency
16 and firearms from the United States to Mexico; and

17 (2) not fewer than 100 new Homeland Security
18 Investigations special agents to assist with investiga-
19 tions involving the smuggling of contraband, human
20 trafficking and smuggling (including that of chil-
21 dren), drug smuggling, and unauthorized entry into
22 the United States from Mexico.

23 (b) SUPPORT STAFF.—The Director is authorized to
24 hire, train, and assign such additional support staff as

1 may be necessary to support the functions carried out by
2 the special agents hired pursuant to subsection (a).

3 **SEC. 6. REPORT.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
5 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Home-
6 land Security shall submit a report to the appropriate con-
7 gressional committees that—

8 (1) identifies the resources provided, including
9 equipment, personnel, and infrastructure, and the
10 annual budget to carry out outbound and inbound
11 inspections, including, to the extent practicable, re-
12 sources specifically used for inspections of any indi-
13 viduals and modes of transportation—

14 (A) from the United States to Mexico or to
15 Canada; and

16 (B) from Mexico or Canada into the
17 United States.

18 (2) describes the operational cadence of all out-
19 bound and inbound inspections of individuals and
20 conveyances traveling from the United States to
21 Mexico or to Canada and from Mexico or Canada
22 into the United States, described as a percentage of
23 total encounters or as the total number of inspec-
24 tions conducted;

1 (3) describes any plans that would allow for the
2 use of alternative inspection sites near a port of
3 entry;

4 (4) includes an estimate of—

5 (A) the number of vehicles and convey-
6 ances that can be inspected with up to 50 addi-
7 tional non-intrusive imaging systems dedicated
8 to southbound inspections; and

9 (B) the number of vehicles and convey-
10 ances that can be inspected with up to 50 addi-
11 tional non-intrusive imaging systems that may
12 be additionally dedicated to inbound inspections
13 along the southwest border; and

14 (5) assesses the capability of inbound inspec-
15 tions by authorities of the Government of Mexico, in
16 cooperation with United States law enforcement
17 agencies, to detect and interdict the flow of illicit
18 weapons and currency being smuggled—

19 (A) from the United States to Mexico; and

20 (B) from Mexico into the United States.

21 (b) CLASSIFICATION.—The report submitted pursu-
22 ant to subsection (a), or any part of such report, may be
23 classified or provided with other appropriate safeguards
24 to prevent public dissemination.

1 **SEC. 7. MINIMUM MANDATORY SOUTHBOUND INSPECTION**
2 **REQUIREMENT.**

3 (a) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than March 30, 2027,
4 the Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure, to the
5 extent practicable, that not fewer than 10 percent of all
6 conveyances and other modes of transportation traveling
7 from the United States to Mexico are inspected before
8 leaving the United States.

9 (b) AUTHORIZED INSPECTION ACTIVITIES.—Inspec-
10 tions required pursuant to subsection (a) may include non-
11 intrusive imaging, physical inspections by officers or ca-
12 nine units, or other means authorized by the Secretary
13 of Homeland Security.

14 (c) REPORT ON ADDITIONAL INSPECTIONS CAPABILI-
15 TIES.—Not later than March 30, 2028, the Secretary of
16 Homeland Security shall submit a report to the appro-
17 priate congressional committees assessing the Department
18 of Homeland Security’s timeline and resource require-
19 ments for increasing inspection rates to 15 and 20 percent
20 of all conveyances and modes of transportation traveling
21 from the United States to Mexico.

22 **SEC. 8. CURRENCY AND FIREARMS SEIZURES QUARTERLY**
23 **REPORT.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
25 date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days there-
26 after until the date that is 4 years after such date of en-

1 actment, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border
2 Protection shall submit a report to the appropriate con-
3 gressional committees that describes the seizure of cur-
4 rency, firearms, and ammunition attempted to be traf-
5 ficked out of the United States.

6 (b) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted pursuant to
7 subsection (a) shall include, for the most recent 90-day
8 period for which such information is available—

9 (1) the total number of currency seizures that
10 occurred from outbound inspections at United States
11 ports of entry;

12 (2) the total dollar amount associated with the
13 currency seizures referred to in paragraph (1);

14 (3) the total number of firearms seized from
15 outbound inspections at United States ports of
16 entry;

17 (4) the total number of ammunition rounds
18 seized from outbound inspections at United States
19 ports of entry; and

20 (5) the total number of incidents of firearm sei-
21 zures and ammunition seizures that occurred at
22 United States ports of entry.

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