

Calendar No. 672

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION**S. 1897****[Report No. 118-269]**

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

 IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 8, 2023

Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. OSSOFF) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

DECEMBER 9, 2024

Reported by Mr. PETERS, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

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”.~~

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

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

6 (A) the Committee on Appropriations of
 7 the Senate;

8 (B) the Committee on Homeland Security
 9 and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

10 (C) the Committee on the Judiciary of the
 11 Senate;

12 (D) the Committee on Appropriations of
 13 the House of Representatives;

14 (E) the Committee on Homeland Security
 15 of the House of Representatives; and

16 (F) the Committee on the Judiciary of the
 17 House of Representatives.

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

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

24 (a) **CBP OFFICERS.**—The Commissioner of U.S.
 25 Customs and Border Protection shall hire, train, and as-
 26 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 to purchase
12 up to 50 additional non-intrusive imaging systems, which
13 shall be deployed along the Southern Border for the pur-
14 pose of inspecting vehicles traveling from the United
15 States to Mexico.

16 (b) **ALTERNATIVE EQUIPMENT.**—The Commissioner
17 of U.S. Customs and Border Protection is authorized to
18 purchase additional alternative equipment that the Com-
19 missioner deems necessary for the purpose of inspecting
20 individuals or vehicles traveling from the United States
21 to Mexico.

1 **SEC. 5. ADDITIONAL HOMELAND SECURITY INVESTIGA-**
2 **TIONS PERSONNEL FOR INVESTIGATIONS OF**
3 **SOUTHBOUND SMUGGLING.**

4 (a) HSI SPECIAL AGENTS.—The Director of U.S.
5 Immigration and Customs Enforcement shall hire, train,
6 and assign not fewer than 100 new Homeland Security
7 Investigations special agents to assist with investigations
8 involving the smuggling of currency and firearms from the
9 United States to Mexico.

10 (b) SUPPORT STAFF.—The Director is authorized to
11 hire, train, and assign such additional support staff as
12 may be necessary to support the functions carried out by
13 the special agents hired pursuant to subsection (a).

14 **SEC. 6. REPORT.**

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

19 (1) identifies infrastructure limitations at any
20 individual port that may limit the ability of U.S.
21 Customs and Border Protection to deploy additional
22 inspection equipment and inspect vehicles and pedes-
23 trians traveling from the United States to Mexico;

24 (2) identifies the number of dedicated outbound
25 traffic lanes that are being used at each port of
26 entry along the Southern Border;

1 (3) provides a detailed explanation of any plans
2 to expand the outbound lane capacity and inspection
3 capabilities at ports of entry along the Southern
4 Border; and

5 (4) describes any plans that would allow for the
6 use of alternative inspection sites near a port of
7 entry along the Southern Border.

8 (b) CLASSIFICATION.—The report submitted pursu-
9 ant to subsection (a); or any part of such report, may be
10 classified or provided with other appropriate safeguards
11 to prevent public dissemination.

12 **SEC. 7. MINIMUM MANDATORY SOUTHBOUND INSPECTION**
13 **REQUIREMENT.**

14 (a) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of Homeland Se-
15 curity shall ensure that 20 percent of all vehicles traveling
16 from the United States to Mexico are inspected before
17 leaving the United States, to the extent practicable.

18 (b) AUTHORIZED INSPECTION ACTIVITIES.—Inspe-
19 tions required pursuant to subsection (a) may include non-
20 intrusive imaging, physical inspections by officers or ea-
21 nine units, or other means authorized by the Secretary
22 of Homeland Security.

23 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the date
24 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland
25 Security shall submit a report to the appropriate congress-

1 sional committees that describes the staffing model that
 2 will be used to carry out the inspection requirement de-
 3 scribed in subsection (a).

4 **SEC. 8. SOUTHBOUND CURRENCY AND FIREARMS SEI-**
 5 **ZURES QUARTERLY REPORT.**

6 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the
 7 date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days there-
 8 after until the date that is 4 years after such date of en-
 9 actment, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border
 10 Protection shall submit a report to the appropriate con-
 11 gressional committees that describes the seizure of cur-
 12 rency, firearms, and ammunition attempted to be traf-
 13 ficked from the United States to Mexico across the South-
 14 ern Border.

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

18 (1) the total number of currency seizures that
 19 occurred from outbound inspections at United States
 20 land ports of entry along the Southern Border;

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

23 (3) the total number of firearms seized from
 24 outbound inspections at United States land ports of
 25 entry along the Southern Border;

1 (4) the total number of ammunition rounds
2 seized from outbound inspections at United States
3 land ports of entry along the Southern Border; and

4 (5) the total number of incidents of firearm sei-
5 zures and ammunition seizures that occurred at
6 United States land ports of entry along the South-
7 ern Border.

8 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

9 *This Act may be cited as the “Enhancing Southbound*
10 *Inspections to Combat Cartels Act”.*

11 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

12 *In this Act:*

13 (1) *APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-*
14 *TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional commit-*
15 *tees” means—*

16 (A) *the Committee on Appropriations of the*
17 *Senate;*

18 (B) *the Committee on Homeland Security*
19 *and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;*

20 (C) *the Committee on the Judiciary of the*
21 *Senate;*

22 (D) *the Committee on Appropriations of the*
23 *House of Representatives;*

24 (E) *the Committee on Homeland Security*
25 *of the House of Representatives; and*

1 (F) the Committee on the Judiciary of the
2 House of Representatives.

3 (2) SOUTHERN BORDER.—The term “Southern
4 Border” means the international land border between
5 the United States and Mexico.

6 **SEC. 3. ADDITIONAL INSPECTION EQUIPMENT AND INFRA-**
7 **STRUCTURE.**

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

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

12 (2) to procure additional associated supporting
13 infrastructure.

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

20 (c) ALTERNATIVE EQUIPMENT.—The Commissioner of
21 U.S. Customs and Border Protection is authorized to pro-
22 cure additional infrastructure or alternative inspection
23 equipment that the Commissioner deems necessary for the
24 purpose of inspecting any persons, conveyances, or modes

1 *of transportation traveling from the United States to Mex-*
2 *ico.*

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

6 **SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL HOMELAND SECURITY INVESTIGA-**
7 **TIONS PERSONNEL FOR INVESTIGATIONS OF**
8 **SOUTHBOUND SMUGGLING.**

9 (a) *HSI SPECIAL AGENTS.*—*The Director of U.S. Im-*
10 *migration and Customs Enforcement shall hire, train, and*
11 *assign—*

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

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

22 (b) *SUPPORT STAFF.*—*The Director is authorized to*
23 *hire, train, and assign such additional support staff as may*
24 *be necessary to support the functions carried out by the spe-*
25 *cial agents hired pursuant to subsection (a).*

1 **SEC. 5. REPORT.**

2 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 1 year after the date
3 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Se-
4 curity shall submit a report to the appropriate congres-
5 sional committees that—

6 (1) *identifies the resources provided, including*
7 *equipment, personnel, and infrastructure, and the an-*
8 *nual budget to carry out outbound and inbound in-*
9 *spections, including, to the extent practicable, re-*
10 *sources specifically used for inspections of any indi-*
11 *viduals and modes of transportation—*

12 (A) *from the United States to Mexico or to*
13 *Canada; and*

14 (B) *from Mexico or Canada into the United*
15 *States.*

16 (2) *describes the operational cadence of all out-*
17 *bound and inbound inspections of individuals and*
18 *conveyances traveling from the United States to Mex-*
19 *ico or to Canada and from Mexico or Canada into the*
20 *United States, described as a percentage of total en-*
21 *counters or as the total number of inspections con-*
22 *ducted;*

23 (3) *describes any plans that would allow for the*
24 *use of alternative inspection sites near a port of*
25 *entry;*

26 (4) *includes an estimate of—*

1 (A) *the number of vehicles and conveyances*
 2 *that can be inspected with up to 50 additional*
 3 *non-intrusive imaging systems dedicated to*
 4 *southbound inspections; and*

5 (B) *the number of vehicles and conveyances*
 6 *that can be inspected with up to 50 additional*
 7 *non-intrusive imaging systems that may be ad-*
 8 *ditionally dedicated to inbound inspections along*
 9 *the southwest border; and*

10 (5) *assesses the capability of inbound inspections*
 11 *by authorities of the Government of Mexico, in co-*
 12 *operation with United States law enforcement agen-*
 13 *cies, to detect and interdict the flow of illicit weapons*
 14 *and currency being smuggled—*

15 (A) *from the United States to Mexico; and*

16 (B) *from Mexico into the United States.*

17 (b) *CLASSIFICATION.—The report submitted pursuant*
 18 *to subsection (a), or any part of such report, may be classi-*
 19 *fied or provided with other appropriate safeguards to pre-*
 20 *vent public dissemination.*

21 **SEC. 6. MINIMUM MANDATORY SOUTHBOUND INSPECTION**

22 **REQUIREMENT.**

23 (a) *REQUIREMENT.—Not later than March 30, 2027,*
 24 *the Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure, to the ex-*
 25 *tent practicable, that not fewer than 10 percent of all con-*

1 *veyances and other modes of transportation traveling from*
2 *the United States to Mexico are inspected before leaving the*
3 *United States.*

4 (b) *AUTHORIZED INSPECTION ACTIVITIES.*—*Inspec-*
5 *tions required pursuant to subsection (a) may include non-*
6 *intrusive imaging, physical inspections by officers or ca-*
7 *nine units, or other means authorized by the Secretary of*
8 *Homeland Security.*

9 (c) *REPORT ON ADDITIONAL INSPECTIONS CAPABILI-*
10 *TIES.*—*Not later than March 30, 2028, the Secretary of*
11 *Homeland Security shall submit a report to the appropriate*
12 *congressional committees assessing the Department of*
13 *Homeland Security’s timeline and resource requirements*
14 *for increasing inspection rates to 15 and 20 percent of all*
15 *conveyances and modes of transportation traveling from the*
16 *United States to Mexico.*

17 **SEC. 7. CURRENCY AND FIREARMS SEIZURES QUARTERLY**
18 **REPORT.**

19 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than 90 days after the*
20 *date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days there-*
21 *after until the date that is 4 years after such date of enact-*
22 *ment, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Pro-*
23 *tection shall submit a report to the appropriate congres-*
24 *sional committees that describes the seizure of currency,*

1 *firearms, and ammunition attempted to be trafficked out*
2 *of the United States.*

3 (b) *CONTENTS.*—*Each report submitted pursuant to*
4 *subsection (a) shall include, for the most recent 90-day pe-*
5 *riod for which such information is available—*

6 (1) *the total number of currency seizures that oc-*
7 *curred from outbound inspections at United States*
8 *ports of entry;*

9 (2) *the total dollar amount associated with the*
10 *currency seizures referred to in paragraph (1);*

11 (3) *the total number of firearms seized from out-*
12 *bound inspections at United States ports of entry;*

13 (4) *the total number of ammunition rounds*
14 *seized from outbound inspections at United States*
15 *ports of entry; and*

16 (5) *the total number of incidents of firearm sei-*
17 *zures and ammunition seizures that occurred at*
18 *United States ports of entry.*

Calendar No. 672

118TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 1897

[Report No. 118-269]

A BILL

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

DECEMBER 9, 2024

Reported with an amendment