

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2291

To establish the Northern Border Coordination Center, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 13, 2023

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Ms. COLLINS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

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## A BILL

To establish the Northern Border Coordination Center, 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 “Northern Border Co-  
5 ordination Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) CENTER.—The term “Center” means the  
9 Northern Border Coordination Center established  
10 pursuant to section 3.

1           (2) C-UAS.—The term “C-UAS” means  
2 counter-unmanned aircraft systems.

3           (3) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department”  
4 means the Department of Homeland Security.

5           (4) NORTHERN BORDER.—The term “northern  
6 border” means the international border between the  
7 United States and Canada.

8           (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
9 the Secretary of Homeland Security.

10           (6) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT; UNMANNED AIR-  
11 CRAFT SYSTEMS.—The terms “unmanned aircraft”  
12 and “unmanned aircraft system” have the meanings  
13 given such terms in section 44801 of title 49, United  
14 States Code.

15 **SEC. 3. NORTHERN BORDER COORDINATION CENTER.**

16           (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after  
17 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall  
18 establish the Northern Border Coordination Center.

19           (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Center shall be  
20 to serve as the Department’s forward deployed centralized  
21 coordination center for operations, domain awareness, in-  
22 formation sharing, intelligence, training, and stakeholder  
23 engagement with Federal, State, tribal, local, and inter-  
24 national government partners along the northern border  
25 of the United States at a location that is collocated with

1 an existing U.S. Border Patrol sector headquarters, the  
2 U.S. Border Patrol Northern Border Coordination Center,  
3 an Air and Marine Operations branch, and a United  
4 States Coast Guard air station.

5 (c) COMPONENTS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Center shall collocate  
7 personnel and activities of—

8 (A) U.S. Customs and Border Protection,  
9 including U.S. Border Patrol and Air and Ma-  
10 rine Operations;

11 (B) the United States Coast Guard;

12 (C) Federal Law Enforcement Training  
13 Centers;

14 (D) the Science and Technology Direc-  
15 torate;

16 (E) other components and offices of the  
17 Department that the Secretary determines to be  
18 necessary; and

19 (F) additional Federal, State, tribal, local,  
20 and international government partners, as the  
21 Secretary determines to be necessary and ap-  
22 propriate to support operations described in  
23 this Act.

1 (d) FUNCTIONS.—The Center shall perform the func-  
2 tions described in this subsection in addition to any other  
3 functions assigned by the Secretary.

4 (1) NORTHERN BORDER SECURITY STRAT-  
5 EGY.—The Center, in collaboration with relevant of-  
6 fices and components of the Department, shall—

7 (A) serve as a coordination mechanism for  
8 operational components for the implementation,  
9 evaluation, and updating of the Northern Bor-  
10 der Security Strategy and any successor strat-  
11 egy; and

12 (B) support the development of best prac-  
13 tices and policies for personnel at the northern  
14 border to support such implementation.

15 (2) TRAINING.—The Center shall serve as a  
16 training location to support the delivery of training  
17 or exercises for Department personnel and Federal,  
18 State, tribal, local, and international government  
19 partners.

20 (3) METRICS.—The Center, in collaboration  
21 with relevant offices and components of the Depart-  
22 ment, shall coordinate the development and tracking  
23 of border security metrics for the northern border.

24 (4) RESOURCE AND TECHNOLOGICAL NEEDS  
25 AND CHALLENGES.—The Center, in collaboration

1 with relevant offices and components of the Depart-  
2 ment, shall—

3 (A) identify resource and technological  
4 needs or challenges affecting security along the  
5 northern border;

6 (B) serve as a testing ground and dem-  
7 onstration location for the testing of border se-  
8 curity technology, including determining such  
9 technology's suitability and performance in the  
10 northern border and maritime environments;  
11 and

12 (C) develop and test new technological ca-  
13 pabilities to respond to the increased use of un-  
14 manned aircraft systems, including to specifi-  
15 cally improve domain awareness along the  
16 northern border.

17 (5) AIR AND MARINE OPERATIONS.—

18 (A) QUICK REACTION CAPABILITIES.—In  
19 support of the Center, U.S. Customs and Bor-  
20 der Protection's Air and Marine Operations—

21 (i) shall establish and maintain capa-  
22 bility that is collocated with the Center  
23 and available for quick deployment in sup-  
24 port of the northern border missions of the  
25 Center, U.S. Customs and Border Protec-

1           tion, and the Department, specifically mis-  
2           sions in the Great Lakes region; and

3           (ii) in coordination with the Center  
4           and relevant offices and components of the  
5           Department, shall evaluate requirements  
6           and make recommendations to support the  
7           operations of large unmanned aircraft sys-  
8           tems based at the Center.

9           (B) NORTHERN BORDER DOMAIN AWARE-  
10          NESS.—In order to coordinate with the Center  
11          and support its operations, the Air and Marine  
12          Operations Center shall establish a unit at the  
13          Center to provide the Center the capability—

14           (i) to support air and maritime do-  
15           main awareness and information sharing  
16           efforts along the northern border;

17           (ii) to provide dedicated monitoring of  
18           northern border systems; and

19           (iii) to lead, in coordination with other  
20           U.S. Customs and Border Protection com-  
21           ponents, Federal, State, tribal, local, and  
22           international governments, and private sec-  
23           tor partners, the Center's efforts to track  
24           and monitor legitimate cross-border traffic

1           involving unmanned aircraft and un-  
2           manned aircraft systems.

3           (6) COUNTER-UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYS-  
4           TEMS.—The Center shall support counter-unmanned  
5           aircraft systems operations along the northern bor-  
6           der to respond to the increased use of unmanned  
7           aircraft systems.

8           (7) PRIVACY AND CIVIL RIGHTS.—The Center,  
9           in collaboration with the Chief Privacy Officer and  
10          the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties of the  
11          Department, shall ensure that operations and prac-  
12          tices of the Center comply with the privacy and civil  
13          rights policies of the Department and its compo-  
14          nents.

15          (e) ANNUAL REPORTING.—Not later than 180 days  
16          after the establishment of the Center, and annually there-  
17          after, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Com-  
18          mittee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
19          of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security  
20          of the House of Representatives that describes the activi-  
21          ties of the Center during the most recently concluded fis-  
22          cal year, including—

23                 (1) personnel levels;

1           (2) additional resources that are needed to sup-  
2           port the operations of the Center and northern bor-  
3           der operations of the Department; and

4           (3) any additional assets or authorities that are  
5           needed to increase security and domain awareness  
6           along the northern border.

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