

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1138

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

MARCH 26, 2025

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

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 INSPECTION EQUIPMENT AND INFRA-**
 20 **STRUCTURE.**

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

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

1 (2) to procure additional associated supporting
2 infrastructure.

3 (b) DEPLOYMENT.—The systems and infrastructure
4 purchased or otherwise procured pursuant to subsection
5 (a) shall be deployed along the Southern Border for the
6 primary purpose of inspecting any persons, conveyances,
7 or modes of transportation traveling from the United
8 States to Mexico.

9 (c) ALTERNATIVE EQUIPMENT.—The Commissioner
10 of U.S. Customs and Border Protection is authorized to
11 procure additional infrastructure or alternative inspection
12 equipment that the Commissioner deems necessary for the
13 purpose of inspecting any persons, conveyances, or modes
14 of transportation traveling from the United States to Mex-
15 ico.

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

19 **SEC. 4. ADDITIONAL HOMELAND SECURITY INVESTIGA-**
20 **TIONS PERSONNEL FOR INVESTIGATIONS OF**
21 **SOUTHBOUND SMUGGLING.**

22 (a) HSI SPECIAL AGENTS.—The Director of U.S.
23 Immigration and Customs Enforcement shall hire, train,
24 and assign—

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

5 (2) not fewer than 100 new Homeland Security
6 Investigations special agents to assist with investiga-
7 tions involving the smuggling of contraband, human
8 trafficking and smuggling (including that of chil-
9 dren), drug smuggling, and unauthorized entry into
10 the United States from Mexico.

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

15 **SEC. 5. REPORT.**

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

20 (1) identifies the resources provided, including
21 equipment, personnel, and infrastructure, and the
22 annual budget to carry out outbound and inbound
23 inspections, including, to the extent practicable, re-
24 sources specifically used for inspections of any indi-
25 viduals and modes of transportation—

1 (A) from the United States to Mexico or to
2 Canada; and

3 (B) from Mexico or Canada into the
4 United States;

5 (2) describes the operational cadence of all out-
6 bound and inbound inspections of individuals and
7 conveyances traveling from the United States to
8 Mexico or to Canada and from Mexico or Canada
9 into the United States, described as a percentage of
10 total encounters or as the total number of inspec-
11 tions conducted;

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

15 (4) includes an estimate of—

16 (A) the number of vehicles and convey-
17 ances that can be inspected with up to 50 addi-
18 tional non-intrusive imaging systems dedicated
19 to southbound inspections; and

20 (B) the number of vehicles and convey-
21 ances that can be inspected with up to 50 addi-
22 tional non-intrusive imaging systems that may
23 be additionally dedicated to inbound inspections
24 along the southwest border; and

1 (5) assesses the capability of inbound inspec-
2 tions by authorities of the Government of Mexico, in
3 cooperation with United States law enforcement
4 agencies, to detect and interdict the flow of illicit
5 weapons and currency being smuggled—

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

7 (B) from Mexico into the United States.

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. 6. MINIMUM MANDATORY SOUTHBOUND INSPECTION**
13 **REQUIREMENT.**

14 (a) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than March 30, 2027,
15 the Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure, to the
16 extent practicable, that not fewer than 10 percent of all
17 conveyances and other modes of transportation traveling
18 from the United States to Mexico are inspected before
19 leaving the United States.

20 (b) AUTHORIZED INSPECTION ACTIVITIES.—Inspec-
21 tions required under subsection (a) may include non-intru-
22 sive imaging, physical inspections by officers or canine
23 units, or other means authorized by the Secretary of
24 Homeland Security.

1 (c) REPORT ON ADDITIONAL INSPECTIONS CAPABILI-
2 TIES.—Not later than March 30, 2028, the Secretary of
3 Homeland Security shall submit a report to the appro-
4 priate congressional committees that assesses the Depart-
5 ment of Homeland Security’s timeline and resource re-
6 quirements for increasing inspection rates to 15 and 20
7 percent, respectively, of all conveyances and modes of
8 transportation traveling from the United States to Mexico.

9 **SEC. 7. CURRENCY AND FIREARMS SEIZURES QUARTERLY**
10 **REPORT.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
12 date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days there-
13 after until the date that is 4 years after such date of en-
14 actment, the Commissioner for U.S. Customs and Border
15 Protection shall submit a report to the appropriate con-
16 gressional committees that describes the seizure of cur-
17 rency, firearms, and ammunition attempted to be traf-
18 ficked out of the United States.

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

22 (1) the total number of currency seizures that
23 occurred from outbound inspections at United States
24 ports of entry;

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

3 (3) the total number of firearms seized from
4 outbound inspections at United States ports of
5 entry;

6 (4) the total number of ammunition rounds
7 seized from outbound inspections at United States
8 ports of entry; and

9 (5) the total number of incidents of firearm sei-
10 zures and ammunition seizures that occurred at
11 United States ports of entry.

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