Reducing spending, securing the border, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

M.________ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on ________________

A BILL

Reducing spending, securing the border, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Spending Reduction and Border Security Act”.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

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Sec. 115. Restrictions on funding.
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Sec. 117. Eradication of narcotic drugs and formulating effective new tools to address yearly losses of life; ensuring timely updates to U.S. Customs and Border Protection field manuals.
Sec. 118. Publication by U.S. Customs and Border Protection of operational statistics.
Sec. 119. Alien criminal background checks.
Sec. 120. Prohibited identification documents at airport security checkpoints; notification to immigration agencies.
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TITLE VI—VISA OVERSTAYS PENALTIES

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Sec. 4. Expedited consideration of Fiscal Commission bills.
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1 SEC. 3. REFERENCES.

2 Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference

3 to “this Act” contained in any division of this Act shall
be treated as referring only to the provisions of that divi-

dition.

DIVISION A—CONTINUING

APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

The following sums are hereby appropriated, out of

any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated,

and out of applicable corporate or other revenues, receipts,

and funds, for the several departments, agencies, corpora-

tions, and other organizational units of Government for

fiscal year 2024, and for other purposes, namely:

Sec. 101. (a) Such amounts as may be necessary,

at a rate for operations as provided in the applicable ap-

propriations Acts for fiscal year 2023 and under the au-

thority and conditions provided in such Acts, for con-

tinuing projects or activities (including the costs of direct

loans and loan guarantees) that are not otherwise specifi-

cally provided for in this Act, that were conducted in fiscal

year 2023, and for which appropriations, funds, or other

authority were made available in the following appropri-

tions Acts:

(1) The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food

and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Ap-

propriations Act, 2023 (division A of Public Law

117–328).


(b) The rate for operations provided by subsection (a) is hereby reduced by 29.88565 percent, so that the total amount of annualized discretionary budget authority for fiscal year 2024 is equal to $1,470,979,000,000: Provided, That the reduction in this subsection shall not apply to the rate for operations provided for the national defense budget function (050), the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Department of Homeland Security, or amounts designated as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 102. (a) No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 for the Department of Defense shall be used for:
(1) the new production of items not funded for production in fiscal year 2023 or prior years;

(2) the increase in production rates above those sustained with fiscal year 2023 funds; or

(3) the initiation, resumption, or continuation of any project, activity, operation, or organization (defined as any project, subproject, activity, budget activity, program element, and subprogram within a program element, and for any investment items defined as a P–1 line item in a budget activity within an appropriation account and an R–1 line item that includes a program element and subprogram element within an appropriation account) for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during fiscal year 2023.

(b) No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 for the Department of Defense shall be used to initiate multi-year procurements utilizing advance procurement funding for economic order quantity procurement unless specifically appropriated later.

Sec. 103. Appropriations made by section 101 shall be available to the extent and in the manner that would be provided by the pertinent appropriations Act.
SEC. 104. Except as otherwise provided in section 102, no appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 shall be used to initiate or resume any project or activity for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during fiscal year 2023.

SEC. 105. Appropriations made and authority granted pursuant to this Act shall cover all obligations or expenditures incurred for any project or activity during the period for which funds or authority for such project or activity are available under this Act.

SEC. 106. Unless otherwise provided for in this Act or in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2024, appropriations and funds made available and authority granted pursuant to this Act shall be available until whichever of the following first occurs:

(1) The enactment into law of an appropriation for any project or activity provided for in this Act.

(2) The enactment into law of the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2024 without any provision for such project or activity.

(3) October 31, 2023.

SEC. 107. Expenditures made pursuant to this Act shall be charged to the applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization whenever a bill in which such applicable ap-
propriation, fund, or authorization is contained is enacted
into law.

SEC. 108. Appropriations made and funds made
available by or authority granted pursuant to this Act may
be used without regard to the time limitations for submis-
sion and approval of apportionments set forth in section
1513 of title 31, United States Code, but nothing in this
Act may be construed to waive any other provision of law
governing the apportionment of funds.

SEC. 109. Notwithstanding any other provision of
this Act, except section 106, for those programs that
would otherwise have high initial rates of operation or
complete distribution of appropriations at the beginning
of fiscal year 2024 because of distributions of funding to
States, foreign countries, grantees, or others, such high
initial rates of operation or complete distribution shall not
be made, and no grants shall be awarded for such pro-
grams funded by this Act that would impinge on final
funding prerogatives.

SEC. 110. This Act shall be implemented so that only
the most limited funding action of that permitted in the
Act shall be taken in order to provide for continuation of
projects and activities.

SEC. 111. (a) For entitlements and other mandatory
payments whose budget authority was provided in appro-
appropriations Acts for fiscal year 2023, and for activities under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, activities shall be continued at the rate to maintain program levels under current law, under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2023, to be continued through the date specified in section 106(3).

(b) Notwithstanding section 106, obligations for mandatory payments due on or about the first day of any month that begins after October 2023 but not later than 30 days after the date specified in section 106(3) may continue to be made, and funds shall be available for such payments.

Sec. 112. Amounts made available under section 101 for civilian personnel compensation and benefits in each department and agency may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to avoid furloughs within such department or agency, consistent with the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2023, except that such authority provided under this section shall not be used until after the department or agency has taken all necessary actions to reduce or defer non-personnel-related administrative expenses.

Sec. 113. Funds appropriated by this Act may be obligated and expended notwithstanding section 10 of
SEC. 114. (a) Each amount incorporated by reference in this Act that was previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4001(a)(1) of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022, and section 1(e) of H. Res. 1151 (117th Congress), as engrossed in the House of Representatives on June 8, 2022, is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

(b) Each amount incorporated by reference in this Act that was previously designated as being for disaster relief pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget in the Senate and section 1(f) of H. Res. 1151 (117th Congress), as engrossed in the House of Representatives on June 8, 2022, is designated by the Congress as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of such Act.
(c) This section shall become effective immediately upon enactment of this Act, and shall remain in effect through the date in section 106(3).

Sec. 115. (a) Rescissions or cancellations of discretionary budget authority that continue pursuant to section 101 in Treasury Appropriations Fund Symbols (TAFS)—

(1) to which other appropriations are not provided by this Act, but for which there is a current applicable TAFS that does receive an appropriation in this Act; or

(2) which are no-year TAFS and receive other appropriations in this Act,

may be continued instead by reducing the rate for operations otherwise provided by section 101 for such current applicable TAFS, as long as doing so does not impinge on the final funding prerogatives of the Congress.

(b) Rescissions or cancellations described in subsection (a) shall continue in an amount equal to the lesser of—

(1) the amount specified for rescission or cancellation in the applicable appropriations Act referenced in section 101 of this Act; or

(2) the amount of balances available, as of October 1, 2023, from the funds specified for rescission
or cancellation in the applicable appropriations Act referenced in section 101 of this Act.

(c) No later than October 11, 2023, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a comprehensive list of the rescissions or cancellations that will continue pursuant to section 101: Provided, That the information in such comprehensive list shall be periodically updated to reflect any subsequent changes in the amount of balances available, as of October 1, 2023, from the funds specified for rescission or cancellation in the applicable appropriations Act referenced in section 101, and such updates shall be transmitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate upon request.

SEC. 116. Amounts made available by section 101 for “Farm Service Agency—Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund Program Account” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to accommodate approved applications for direct and guaranteed farm ownership loans, as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 1922 et seq.

SEC. 117. Amounts made available by section 101 to the Department of Agriculture for “Rural Housing Service—Rental Assistance Program” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to maintain activities
as authorized by section 521(a)(2) of the Housing Act of 1949.

Sec. 118. Section 260 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1636i) and section 942 of the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act of 1999 (7 U.S.C. 1635 note; Public Law 106–78) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for “September 30, 2023”.

Sec. 119. Notwithstanding sections 102 and 104 of this Act, amounts made available by section 101(3) for the Department of Defense may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to facilitate the programs and activities set forth in H.R. 4365, the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2024, reported by the House Committee on Appropriations on June 27, 2023, subject to the terms and conditions therein.

Sec. 120. Notwithstanding sections 102 and 104 of this Act, amounts made available by section 101 to the Department of Defense for “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy” shall be available for the procurement of one Columbia Class Submarine.

Sec. 121. During the period covered by this Act, section 714(b)(2)(B) of title 10, United States Code, shall be applied by substituting “four years” for “two years”.

SEC. 122. In addition to amounts otherwise provided by section 101, amounts are provided for “Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Nuclear Energy” at a rate for operations of $220,000,000: Provided, That amounts are provided for necessary expenses related to Risk Reduction for Future Demonstrations at a rate for operations of $120,000,000 and Advanced Nuclear Fuel Availability at a rate for operations of $100,000,000.

SEC. 123. Amounts made available by section 101 for “Small Business Administration—Business Loans Program Account” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to accommodate increased demand for commitments for general business loans authorized under paragraphs (1) through (35) of section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)), for commitments to guarantee trust certificates authorized by section 5(g) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 634(g)), for commitments to guarantee loans under section 503 of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 697), and for commitments to guarantee loans for debentures under section 303(b) of the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 (15 U.S.C. 683(b)).

SEC. 124. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, except section 106, the District of Columbia may expend local funds made available under the heading “Dis-
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t riot of Columbia—District of Columbia Funds” for such
2 programs and activities under the District of Columbia
3 Appropriations Act, 2023 (title IV of division E of Public
4 Law 117–328) at the rate set forth in the Fiscal Year
5 2024 Local Budget Act of 2023 (D.C. Bill 25–161), as
6 modified as of the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 125. Amounts made available by section 101 to
7 the Department of Homeland Security under the heading
8 “Federal Emergency Management Agency—Disaster Re-
9 lief Fund” may be apportioned up to the rate for oper-
10 ations necessary to carry out response and recovery activi-
11 ties under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and
12 Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

SEC. 126. Amounts provided by section 101 shall not
14 be made available to utilize the U.S. Customs and Border
15 Protection CBP One Application, or any successor appli-
16 cation, to facilitate the parole of any alien into the United
17 States.

SEC. 127. (a) Amounts provided by section 101 shall
19 not be made available to transport aliens unlawfully
20 present in, paroled into, or inadmissible to the United
21 States into the interior of the United States for purposes
22 other than enforcement of the immigration laws (as such
23 term is defined in section 101 of the Immigration and Na-
24 tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101)).
(b) The limitation under subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to amounts made available to transport unaccompanied alien children (as such term is defined in section 462 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279)).

SEC. 128. Amounts provided by section 101 shall not be made available to issue any employment authorization document or similar document to any alien whose application for asylum in the United States has been denied, or who is convicted of a Federal or State crime while his or her application for asylum in the United States is pending.

SEC. 129. Amounts provided by section 101 shall not be made available to obligate, expend, or transfer to another Federal agency, board, or commission to be used to dismantle, demolish, remove, or damage existing United States-Mexico physical barriers at any location where such barriers have been constructed as of the date of enactment of this Act unless such barrier is simultaneously being repaired or replaced.

SEC. 130. Amounts provided by section 101 shall not be made available to implement, administer, or otherwise carry out the activities and policies described in the memorandum issued by the Secretary of Homeland Security on September 30, 2021, entitled “Guidelines for the Enforcement of Civil Immigration Law” or described in the
memorandum issued by Kerry Doyle, Immigration and Customs Enforcement Principal Legal Advisor on April 3, 2022, entitled “Guidance to OPLA Attorneys Regarding the Enforcement of Civil Immigration Laws and the Exercise of 20 Prosecutorial Discretion” or any successor or similar memorandum or policy.

SEC. 131. Amounts provided by section 101 shall not be made available to implement, administer, or otherwise carry out the policies described in the directive issued by the Acting Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection on January 10, 2023, entitled “Emergency Driving and Vehicular Pursuits”.

SEC. 132. Amounts provided by section 101 shall not be made available to implement, administer, or enforce the rule entitled “Procedures or Credible Fear Screening and Consideration of Asylum, Withholding of Removal, and CAT Protection Claims by Asylum Officers” (87 Fed. Reg. 18078).

SEC. 133. Amounts provided by section 101 shall not be made available to release (including pursuant to parole or release pursuant to section 236(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act but excluding as expressly authorized pursuant to section 212(d)(5)) an alien described in section 235(b)(1)(A)(i)–(ii), (b)(1)(B), or (b)(2), other than to be removed, including to a country described in section
208(a)(2)(A), or returned to a country as described in section 235(b)(3).

SEC. 134. Amounts provided by section 101 shall not be made available to implement, administer, or enforce the rule related to “Circumvention of Lawful Pathways” (88 Fed. Reg. 11704).

SEC. 135. (a) Sections 1309(a) and 1319 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4016(a) and 4026) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for “September 30, 2023”.

(b)(1) Subject to paragraph (2), this section shall become effective immediately upon enactment of this Act.

(2) If this Act is enacted after September 30, 2023, this section shall be applied as if it were in effect on September 30, 2023.

SEC. 136. (a) Of the amounts made available pursuant to section 40803(c)(2) of Public Law 117–58, the Secretary of Agriculture shall transfer to the Secretary of the Interior such sums as are necessary to continue without interruption the Federal wildland firefighter base salary increase provided under Section 40803(d)(4)(B) of such Public Law.

(b) In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary of Agriculture—
(1) may make more than one transfer of funds under this section; and

(2) may not transfer a total amount of funds greater than $17,250,000.

(c) No funds transferred pursuant to this section may be obligated without prior written notification, to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate, of the date of the transfer, the total amount to be transferred, and the remaining funds available for transfer.

SEC. 137. Notwithstanding section 101, section 126 of Division J of Public Law 117–328 shall be applied during the period covered by this Act by substituting “fiscal year 2017, fiscal year 2018, and fiscal year 2019” for “fiscal year 2017 and fiscal year 2018”.

This division may be cited as the “Continuing Appropriations Act, 2024”.

DIVISION B—OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 101. STATUTORY PAYGO SCORECARDS.

The budgetary effects of this division and each succeeding division shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.
SEC. 102. SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.

The budgetary effects of this division and each succeeding division shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 4106 of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress).

SEC. 103. CLASSIFICATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

Notwithstanding Rule 3 of the Budget Scorekeeping Guidelines set forth in the joint explanatory statement of the committee of conference accompanying Conference Report 105–217 and section 250(c)(8) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the budgetary effects of this division and each succeeding division shall not be estimated—

(1) for purposes of section 251 of such Act;

(2) for purposes of an allocation to the Committee on Appropriations pursuant to section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974; and

(3) for purposes of paragraph (4)(C) of section 3 of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 as being included in an appropriation Act.

DIVISION C—BORDER SECURITY

SEC. 101. DEFINITIONS.

In this division:

(1) CBP.—The term “CBP” means U.S. Customs and Border Protection.
(2) COMMISSIONER.—The term “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

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

(4) OPERATIONAL CONTROL.—The term “operational control” has the meaning given such term in section 2(b) of the Secure Fence Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–367; 8 U.S.C. 1701 note).

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

(6) SITUATIONAL AWARENESS.—The term “situational awareness” has the meaning given such term in section 1092(a)(7) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328; 6 U.S.C. 223(a)(7)).

(7) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.—The term “unmanned aircraft system” has the meaning given such term in section 44801 of title 49, United States Code.

SEC. 102. BORDER WALL CONSTRUCTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) IMMEDIATE RESUMPTION OF BORDER WALL CONSTRUCTION.—Not later than seven days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
shall resume all activities related to the construction
of the border wall along the border between the
United States and Mexico that were underway or
being planned for prior to January 20, 2021.

(2) USE OF FUNDS.—To carry out this section,
the Secretary shall expend all unexpired funds ap-
propriated or explicitly obligated for the construction
of the border wall that were appropriated or obli-
gated, as the case may be, for use beginning on Oc-
tober 1, 2019.

(3) USE OF MATERIALS.—Any unused materials
purchased before the date of the enactment of this
Act for construction of the border wall may be used
for activities related to the construction of the bor-
der wall in accordance with paragraph (1).

(b) PLAN TO COMPLETE TACTICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND TECHNOLOGY.—Not later than 90 days after
the date of the enactment of this Act and annually there-
after until construction of the border wall has been com-
pleted, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate con-
gressional committees an implementation plan, including
annual benchmarks for the construction of 200 miles of
such wall and associated cost estimates for satisfying all
requirements of the construction of the border wall, in-
cluding installation and deployment of tactical infrastruc-
ture, technology, and other elements as identified by the Department prior to January 20, 2021, through the expenditure of funds appropriated or explicitly obligated, as the case may be, for use, as well as any future funds appropriated or otherwise made available by Congress.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(2) TACTICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term “tactical infrastructure” includes boat ramps, access gates, checkpoints, lighting, and roads associated with a border wall.

(3) TECHNOLOGY.—The term “technology” includes border surveillance and detection technology, including linear ground detection systems, associated with a border wall.
SEC. 103. STRENGTHENING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR BARRIERS ALONG THE SOUTHERN BORDER.

Section 102 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (Division C of Public Law 104–208; 8 U.S.C. 1103 note) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall take such actions as may be necessary (including the removal of obstacles to detection of illegal entrants) to design, test, construct, install, deploy, integrate, and operate physical barriers, tactical infrastructure, and technology in the vicinity of the southwest border to achieve situational awareness and operational control of the southwest border and deter, impede, and detect unlawful activity.”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “FENCING AND ROAD IMPROVEMENTS” and inserting “PHYSICAL BARRIERS”; 

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the heading, by striking “FENCING” and inserting “BARRIERS”; 

(ii) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:
“(A) REINFORCED BARRIERS.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall construct a border wall, including physical barriers, tactical infrastructure, and technology, along not fewer than 900 miles of the southwest border until situational awareness and operational control of the southwest border is achieved.”;

(iii) by amending subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

“(B) PHYSICAL BARRIERS AND TACTICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall deploy along the southwest border the most practical and effective physical barriers, tactical infrastructure, and technology available for achieving situational awareness and operational control of the southwest border.”;

(iv) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) by amending clause (i) to read as follows:

“(i) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall consult with the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture,
appropriate representatives of State, Tribal, and local governments, and appropriate private property owners in the United States to minimize the impact on natural resources, commerce, and sites of historical or cultural significance for the communities and residents located near the sites at which physical barriers, tactical infrastructure, and technology are to be constructed. Such consultation may not delay such construction for longer than seven days.”; and

(II) in clause (ii)—

(aa) in subclause (I), by striking “or” after the semicolon at the end;

(bb) by amending subclause (II) to read as follows:

“(II) delay the transfer to the United States of the possession of property or affect the validity of any property acquisition by the United States by purchase or eminent domain, or to otherwise affect the emi-
nent domain laws of the United States
or of any State; or”; and

(cc) by adding at the end
the following new subclause:
“(III) create any right or liability
for any party.”; and

(v) by striking subparagraph (D);

(C) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “Attorney General”
and inserting “Secretary of Homeland Se-
curity”;  

(ii) by striking “this subsection” and
inserting “this section”; and

(iii) by striking “construction of
fences” and inserting “the construction of
physical barriers, tactical infrastructure,
and technology”; 

(D) by amending paragraph (3) to read as
follows:
“(3) AGENT SAFETY.—In carrying out this sec-
tion, the Secretary of Homeland Security, when de-
signing, testing, constructing, installing, deploying,
integrating, and operating physical barriers, tactical
infrastructure, or technology, shall incorporate such
safety features into such design, test, construction,
installation, deployment, integration, or operation of such physical barriers, tactical infrastructure, or technology, as the case may be, that the Secretary determines are necessary to maximize the safety and effectiveness of officers and agents of the Department of Homeland Security or of any other Federal agency deployed in the vicinity of such physical barriers, tactical infrastructure, or technology.”; and

(E) in paragraph (4), by striking “this subsection” and inserting “this section”;

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall waive all legal requirements necessary to ensure the expeditious design, testing, construction, installation, deployment, integration, operation, and maintenance of the physical barriers, tactical infrastructure, and technology under this section. The Secretary shall ensure the maintenance and effectiveness of such physical barriers, tactical infrastructure, or technology. Any such action by the Secretary shall be effective upon publication in the Federal Register.”;
(B) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

“(2) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than seven days after the date on which the Secretary of Homeland Security exercises a waiver pursuant to paragraph (1), the Secretary shall notify the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate of such waiver.”;

and

(4) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

“(e) TECHNOLOGY.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall deploy along the southwest border the most practical and effective technology available for achieving situational awareness and operational control.

“(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) ADVANCED UNATTENDED SURVEILLANCE SENSORS.—The term ‘advanced unattended surveillance sensors’ means sensors that utilize an onboard computer to analyze detections in an effort to dis-
cern between vehicles, humans, and animals, and ultimately filter false positives prior to transmission.

“(2) OPERATIONAL CONTROL.—The term ‘operational control’ has the meaning given such term in section 2(b) of the Secure Fence Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–367; 8 U.S.C. 1701 note).

“(3) PHYSICAL BARRIERS.—The term ‘physical barriers’ includes reinforced fencing, the border wall, and levee walls.

“(4) SITUATIONAL AWARENESS.—The term ‘situational awareness’ has the meaning given such term in section 1092(a)(7) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328; 6 U.S.C. 223(a)(7)).

“(5) TACTICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term ‘tactical infrastructure’ includes boat ramps, access gates, checkpoints, lighting, and roads.

“(6) TECHNOLOGY.—The term ‘technology’ includes border surveillance and detection technology, including the following:

“(A) Tower-based surveillance technology.

“(B) Deployable, lighter-than-air ground surveillance equipment.

“(C) Vehicle and Dismount Exploitation Radars (VADER).
“(D) 3-dimensional, seismic acoustic detection and ranging border tunneling detection technology.

“(E) Advanced unattended surveillance sensors.

“(F) Mobile vehicle-mounted and man-portable surveillance capabilities.

“(G) Unmanned aircraft systems.

“(H) Tunnel detection systems and other seismic technology.

“(I) Fiber-optic cable.

“(J) Other border detection, communication, and surveillance technology.

“(7) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.—The term ‘unmanned aircraft system’ has the meaning given such term in section 44801 of title 49, United States Code.”.

SEC. 104. BORDER AND PORT SECURITY TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commissioner, in consultation with covered officials and border and port security technology stakeholders, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a strategic 5-year technology investment plan (in this section referred to as the
“plan”). The plan may include a classified annex, if appro-
appropriate.

(b) CONTENTS OF PLAN.—The plan shall include the
following:

(1) An analysis of security risks at and between
ports of entry along the northern and southern bor-
ders of the United States.

(2) An identification of capability gaps with re-
spect to security at and between such ports of entry
to be mitigated in order to—

(A) prevent terrorists and instruments of
terror from entering the United States;

(B) combat and reduce cross-border crimi-
nal activity, including—

(i) the transport of illegal goods, such
as illicit drugs; and

(ii) human smuggling and human
trafficking; and

(C) facilitate the flow of legal trade across
the southwest border.

(3) An analysis of current and forecast trends
relating to the number of aliens who—

(A) unlawfully entered the United States
by crossing the northern or southern border of
the United States; or
(B) are unlawfully present in the United States.

(4) A description of security-related technology acquisitions, to be listed in order of priority, to address the security risks and capability gaps analyzed and identified pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively.

(5) A description of each planned security-related technology program, including objectives, goals, and timelines for each such program.

(6) An identification of each deployed security-related technology that is at or near the end of the life cycle of such technology.

(7) A description of the test, evaluation, modeling, and simulation capabilities, including target methodologies, rationales, and timelines, necessary to support the acquisition of security-related technologies pursuant to paragraph (4).

(8) An identification and assessment of ways to increase opportunities for communication and collaboration with the private sector, small and disadvantaged businesses, intragovernment entities, university centers of excellence, and federal laboratories to ensure CBP is able to engage with the market for security-related technologies that are avail-
able to satisfy its mission needs before engaging in an acquisition of a security-related technology.

(9) An assessment of the management of planned security-related technology programs by the acquisition workforce of CBP.

(10) An identification of ways to leverage already-existing acquisition expertise within the Federal Government.

(11) A description of the security resources, including information security resources, required to protect security-related technology from physical or cyber theft, diversion, sabotage, or attack.

(12) A description of initiatives to—

(A) streamline the acquisition process of CBP; and

(B) provide to the private sector greater predictability and transparency with respect to such process, including information relating to the timeline for testing and evaluation of security-related technology.

(13) An assessment of the privacy and security impact on border communities of security-related technology.

(14) In the case of a new acquisition leading to the removal of equipment from a port of entry along
the northern or southern border of the United States, a strategy to consult with the private sector and community stakeholders affected by such removal.

(15) A strategy to consult with the private sector and community stakeholders with respect to security impacts at a port of entry described in paragraph (14).

(16) An identification of recent technological advancements in the following:

   (A) Manned aircraft sensor, communication, and common operating picture technology.

   (B) Unmanned aerial systems and related technology, including counter-unmanned aerial system technology.

   (C) Surveillance technology, including the following:

      (i) Mobile surveillance vehicles.

      (ii) Associated electronics, including cameras, sensor technology, and radar.

      (iii) Tower-based surveillance technology.

      (iv) Advanced unattended surveillance sensors.
(v) Deployable, lighter-than-air, ground surveillance equipment.

(D) Nonintrusive inspection technology, including non-x-ray devices utilizing muon tomography and other advanced detection technology.

(E) Tunnel detection technology.

(F) Communications equipment, including:

(i) Radios.

(ii) Long-term evolution broadband.

(iii) Miniature satellites.

(c) LEVERAGING THE PRIVATE SECTOR.—To the extent practicable, the plan shall—

(1) leverage emerging technological capabilities, and research and development trends, within the public and private sectors;

(2) incorporate input from the private sector, including from border and port security stakeholders, through requests for information, industry day events, and other innovative means consistent with the Federal Acquisition Regulation; and

(3) identify security-related technologies that are in development or deployed, with or without adaptation, that may satisfy the mission needs of CBP.
(d) Form.—To the extent practicable, the plan shall be published in unclassified form on the website of the Department.

(e) Disclosure.—The plan shall include an identification of individuals not employed by the Federal Government, and their professional affiliations, who contributed to the development of the plan.

(f) Update and Report.—Not later than the date that is two years after the date on which the plan is submitted to the appropriate congressional committees pursuant to subsection (a) and biennially thereafter for ten years, the Commissioner shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees—

(1) an update of the plan, if appropriate; and

(2) a report that includes—

(A) the extent to which each security-related technology acquired by CBP since the initial submission of the plan or most recent update of the plan, as the case may be, is consistent with the planned technology programs and projects described pursuant to subsection (b)(5); and

(B) the type of contract and the reason for acquiring each such security-related technology.

(g) Definitions.—In this section:
(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(2) **COVERED OFFICIALS.**—The term “covered officials” means—

(A) the Under Secretary for Management of the Department;

(B) the Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department; and

(C) the Chief Information Officer of the Department.

(3) **UNLAWFULLY PRESENT.**—The term “unlawfully present” has the meaning provided such term in section 212(a)(9)(B)(ii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(9)(B)(ii)).
SEC. 105. BORDER SECURITY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM MANAGEMENT.

(a) In General.—Subtitle C of title IV of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 231 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

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“SEC. 437. BORDER SECURITY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM MANAGEMENT.

“(a) Major Acquisition Program Defined.—In this section, the term ‘major acquisition program’ means an acquisition program of the Department that is estimated by the Secretary to require an eventual total expenditure of at least $100,000,000 (based on fiscal year 2023 constant dollars) over its life-cycle cost.

“(b) Planning Documentation.—For each border security technology acquisition program of the Department that is determined to be a major acquisition program, the Secretary shall—

“(1) ensure that each such program has a written acquisition program baseline approved by the relevant acquisition decision authority;

“(2) document that each such program is satisfying cost, schedule, and performance thresholds as specified in such baseline, in compliance with relevant departmental acquisition policies and the Federal Acquisition Regulation; and
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“(3) have a plan for satisfying program implementation objectives by managing contractor performance.

“(c) ADHERENCE TO STANDARDS.—The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Management and the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, shall ensure border security technology acquisition program managers who are responsible for carrying out this section adhere to relevant internal control standards identified by the Comptroller General of the United States. The Commissioner shall provide information, as needed, to assist the Under Secretary in monitoring management of border security technology acquisition programs under this section.

“(d) PLAN.—The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Management, in coordination with the Under Secretary for Science and Technology and the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, shall 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 plan for testing, evaluating, and using independent verification and validation of resources relating to the proposed acquisition of border security technology. Under such plan, the proposed acquisition of new border security...
technologies shall be evaluated through a series of assessments, processes, and audits to ensure—

“(1) compliance with relevant departmental acquisition policies and the Federal Acquisition Regulation; and

“(2) the effective use of taxpayer dollars.”.

(b) Clerical Amendment.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 436 the following new item:

“Sec. 437. Border security technology program management.”.

(c) Prohibition on Additional Authorization of Appropriations.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 437 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by subsection (a).

SEC. 106. U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES.

(a) Secure Communications.—The Commissioner shall ensure that each CBP officer or agent, as appropriate, is equipped with a secure radio or other two-way communication device that allows each such officer or agent to communicate—

(1) between ports of entry and inspection stations; and
(2) with other Federal, State, Tribal, and local law enforcement entities.

(b) Border Security Deployment Program.—

(1) Expansion.—Not later than September 30, 2025, the Commissioner shall—

(A) fully implement the Border Security Deployment Program of CBP; and

(B) expand the integrated surveillance and intrusion detection system at land ports of entry along the northern and southern borders of the United States.

(2) Authorization of Appropriations.—In addition to amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated for such purpose, there is authorized to be appropriated $33,000,000 for fiscal years 2024 and 2025 to carry out paragraph (1).

(c) Upgrade of License Plate Readers at Ports of Entry.—

(1) Upgrade.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commissioner shall upgrade all existing license plate readers in need of upgrade, as determined by the Commissioner, on the northern and southern borders of the United States.
(2) Authorization of Appropriations.—In addition to amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated for such purpose, there is authorized to be appropriated $125,000,000 for fiscal years 2023 and 2024 to carry out paragraph (1).

SEC. 107. U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION PERSONNEL.

(a) Retention Bonus.—To carry out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated up to $100,000,000 to the Commissioner to provide a retention bonus to any front-line U.S. Border Patrol law enforcement agent—

(1) whose position is equal to or below level GS–12 of the General Schedule;

(2) who has five years or more of service with the U.S. Border Patrol; and

(3) who commits to two years of additional service with the U.S. Border Patrol upon acceptance of such bonus.

(b) Border Patrol Agents.—Not later than September 30, 2025, the Commissioner shall hire, train, and assign a sufficient number of Border Patrol agents to maintain an active duty presence of not fewer than 22,000 full-time equivalent Border Patrol agents, who may not perform the duties of processing coordinators.
(c) Prohibition Against Alien Travel.—No personnel or equipment of Air and Marine Operations may be used for the transportation of non-detained aliens, or detained aliens expected to be administratively released upon arrival, from the southwest border to destinations within the United States.

(d) GAO Report.—If the staffing level required under this section is not achieved by the date associated with such level, the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) conduct a review of the reasons why such level was not so achieved; and

(2) not later than September 30, 2027, publish on a publicly available website of the Government Accountability Office a report relating thereto.

SEC. 108. ANTI-BORDER CORRUPTION ACT REAUTHORIZATION.

(a) Hiring Flexibility.—Section 3 of the Anti-Border Corruption Act of 2010 (6 U.S.C. 221; Public Law 111–376) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following new subsections:

“(b) Waiver Requirement.—Subject to subsection (c), the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall waive the application of subsection (a)(1)—
“(1) to a current, full-time law enforcement officer employed by a State or local law enforcement agency who—

“(A) has continuously served as a law enforcement officer for not fewer than three years;

“(B) is authorized by law to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of, or the incarceration of any person for, any violation of law, and has statutory powers for arrest or apprehension; and

“(C) is not currently under investigation, has not been found to have engaged in criminal activity or serious misconduct, has not resigned from a law enforcement officer position under investigation or in lieu of termination, and has not been dismissed from a law enforcement officer position;

“(2) to a current, full-time Federal law enforcement officer who—

“(A) has continuously served as a law enforcement officer for not fewer than three years;
“(B) is authorized to make arrests, conduct investigations, conduct searches, make seizures, carry firearms, and serve orders, warrants, and other processes;

“(C) is not currently under investigation, has not been found to have engaged in criminal activity or serious misconduct, has not resigned from a law enforcement officer position under investigation or in lieu of termination, and has not been dismissed from a law enforcement officer position; and

“(D) holds a current Tier 4 background investigation or current Tier 5 background investigation; or

“(3) to a member of the Armed Forces (or a reserve component thereof) or a veteran, if such individual—

“(A) has served in the Armed Forces for not fewer than three years;

“(B) holds, or has held within the past five years, a Secret, Top Secret, or Top Secret/Sensitive Compartmented Information clearance;

“(C) holds, or has undergone within the past five years, a current Tier 4 background in-
vestigation or current Tier 5 background inves-
tigation;

“(D) received, or is eligible to receive, an
honorable discharge from service in the Armed
Forces and has not engaged in criminal activity
or committed a serious military or civil offense
under the Uniform Code of Military Justice;
and

“(E) was not granted any waivers to ob-
tain the clearance referred to in subparagraph
(B).

“(c) TERMINATION OF WAIVER REQUIREMENT;

SNAP-BACK.—The requirement to issue a waiver under
subsection (b) shall terminate if the Commissioner of U.S.
Customs and Border Protection (CBP) certifies to the
Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Rep-
resentatives and the Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs of the Senate that CBP has met
all requirements pursuant to section 107 of the Secure the
Border Act of 2023 relating to personnel levels. If at any
time after such certification personnel levels fall below
such requirements, the Commissioner shall waive the ap-
lication of subsection (a)(1) until such time as the Com-
missioner re-certifies to such Committees that CBP has
so met all such requirements.”.
(b) **SUPPLEMENTAL COMMISSIONER AUTHORITY;**

**REPORTING; DEFINITIONS.**—The Anti-Border Corruption Act of 2010 is amended by adding at the end the following new sections:

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"SEC. 5. SUPPLEMENTAL COMMISSIONER AUTHORITY.

  "(a) NONEXEMPTION.—An individual who receives a waiver under section 3(b) is not exempt from any other hiring requirements relating to suitability for employment and eligibility to hold a national security designated position, as determined by the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

  "(b) BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS.—An individual who receives a waiver under section 3(b) who holds a current Tier 4 background investigation shall be subject to a Tier 5 background investigation.

  "(c) ADMINISTRATION OF POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection is authorized to administer a polygraph examination to an applicant or employee who is eligible for or receives a waiver under section 3(b) if information is discovered before the completion of a background investigation that results in a determination that a polygraph examination is necessary to make a final determination regarding suitability for employment or continued employment, as the case may be.
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“SEC. 6. REPORTING.

“(a) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this section and annually thereafter while the waiver authority under section 3(b) is in effect, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall submit to Congress a report that includes, with respect to each such reporting period, the following:

“(1) Information relating to the number of waivers granted under such section 3(b).

“(2) Information relating to the percentage of applicants who were hired after receiving such a waiver.

“(3) Information relating to the number of instances that a polygraph was administered to an applicant who initially received such a waiver and the results of such polygraph.

“(4) An assessment of the current impact of such waiver authority on filling law enforcement positions at U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

“(5) An identification of additional authorities needed by U.S. Customs and Border Protection to better utilize such waiver authority for its intended goals.

“(b) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—The first report submitted under subsection (a) shall include the following:
“(1) An analysis of other methods of employment suitability tests that detect deception and could be used in conjunction with traditional background investigations to evaluate potential applicants or employees for suitability for employment or continued employment, as the case may be.

“(2) A recommendation regarding whether a test referred to in paragraph (1) should be adopted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection when the polygraph examination requirement is waived pursuant to section 3(b).

“SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.

“In this Act:

“(1) FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—
The term ‘Federal law enforcement officer’ means a ‘law enforcement officer’, as such term is defined in section 8331(20) or 8401(17) of title 5, United States Code.

“(2) SERIOUS MILITARY OR CIVIL OFFENSE.—
The term ‘serious military or civil offense’ means an offense for which—

“(A) a member of the Armed Forces may be discharged or separated from service in the Armed Forces; and
“(B) a punitive discharge is, or would be, authorized for the same or a closely related offense under the Manual for Court-Martial, as pursuant to Army Regulation 635–200, chapter 14–12.

“(3) TIER 4; TIER 5.—The terms ‘Tier 4’ and ‘Tier 5’, with respect to background investigations, have the meaning given such terms under the 2012 Federal Investigative Standards.

“(4) VETERAN.—The term ‘veteran’ has the meaning given such term in section 101(2) of title 38, United States Code.”.

(c) POLYGRAPH EXAMINERS.—Not later than September 30, 2025, the Secretary shall increase to not fewer than 150 the number of trained full-time equivalent polygraph examiners for administering polygraphs under the Anti-Border Corruption Act of 2010, as amended by this section.

SEC. 109. ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKLOAD STAFFING MODELS FOR U.S. BORDER PATROL AND AIR AND MARINE OPERATIONS OF CBP.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commissioner, in coordination with the Under Secretary for Management, the Chief Human Capital Officer, and the Chief Financial
Officer of the Department, shall implement a workload staffing model for each of the following:

(1) The U.S. Border Patrol.

(2) Air and Marine Operations of CBP.

(b) Responsibilities of the Commissioner.—Subsection (c) of section 411 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 211), is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (18) and (19) as paragraphs (20) and (21), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (17) the following new paragraphs:

“(18) implement a staffing model for the U.S. Border Patrol, Air and Marine Operations, and the Office of Field Operations that includes consideration for essential frontline operator activities and functions, variations in operating environments, present and planned infrastructure, present and planned technology, and required operations support levels to enable such entities to manage and assign personnel of such entities to ensure field and support posts possess adequate resources to carry out duties specified in this section;

“(19) develop standard operating procedures for a workforce tracking system within the U.S. Border Patrol, Air and Marine Operations, and the
Office of Field Operations, train the workforce of each of such entities on the use, capabilities, and purpose of such system, and implement internal controls to ensure timely and accurate scheduling and reporting of actual completed work hours and activities;”.

(c) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act with respect to subsection (a) and paragraphs (18) and (19) of section 411(c) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (as amended by subsection (b)), and annually thereafter with respect to such paragraphs (18) and (19), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes a status update on the following:

(A) The implementation of such subsection (a) and such paragraphs (18) and (19).

(B) Each relevant workload staffing model.

(2) DATA SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY REQUIRED.—Each report required under paragraph (1) shall include information relating to the data sources and methodology used to generate each relevant staffing model.
(d) Inspector General Review.—Not later than 90 days after the Commissioner develops the workload staffing models pursuant to subsection (a), the Inspector General of the Department shall review such models and provide feedback to the Secretary and the appropriate congressional committees with respect to the degree to which such models are responsive to the recommendations of the Inspector General, including the following:

(1) Recommendations from the Inspector General’s February 2019 audit.

(2) Any further recommendations to improve such models.

(e) Appropriate Congressional Committees Defined.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

SEC. 110. OPERATION STONEGARDEN.

(a) In General.—Subtitle A of title XX of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:
“SEC. 2010. OPERATION STONEGARDEN.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Department a program to be known as ‘Operation Stonegarden’, under which the Secretary, acting through the Administrator, shall make grants to eligible law enforcement agencies, through State administrative agencies, to enhance border security in accordance with this section.

“(b) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a law enforcement agency shall—

“(1) be located in—

“(A) a State bordering Canada or Mexico;

or

“(B) a State or territory with a maritime border;

“(2) be involved in an active, ongoing, U.S. Customs and Border Protection operation coordinated through a U.S. Border Patrol sector office; and

“(3) have an agreement in place with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to support enforcement operations.

“(c) PERMITTED USES.—A recipient of a grant under this section may use such grant for costs associated with the following:
“(1) Equipment, including maintenance and sustainment.

“(2) Personnel, including overtime and backfill, in support of enhanced border law enforcement activities.

“(3) Any activity permitted for Operation Stonegarden under the most recent fiscal year Department of Homeland Security’s Homeland Security Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity.

“(d) PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE.—The Secretary shall award grants under this section to grant recipients for a period of not fewer than 36 months.

“(e) NOTIFICATION.—Upon denial of a grant to a law enforcement agency, the Administrator shall provide written notice to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, including the reasoning for such denial.

“(f) REPORT.—For each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028 the Administrator shall 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 that contains—

“(1) information on the expenditure of grants made under this section by each grant recipient; and
“(2) recommendations for other uses of such grants to further support eligible law enforcement agencies.

“(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated $110,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028 for grants under this section.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (a) of section 2002 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 603) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary, through the Administrator, may award grants under sections 2003, 2004, 2009, and 2010 to State, local, and Tribal governments, as appropriate.”.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2009 the following new item:

“Sec. 2010. Operation Stonegarden.”.

SEC. 111. AIR AND MARINE OPERATIONS FLIGHT HOURS.

(a) AIR AND MARINE OPERATIONS FLIGHT HOURS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall ensure that not fewer than 110,000 annual flight hours are carried out by Air and Marine Operations of CBP.
(b) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS.—The Secretary, after coordination with the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, shall ensure that Air and Marine Operations operate unmanned aircraft systems on the southern border of the United States for not less than 24 hours per day.

(c) PRIMARY MISSIONS.—The Commissioner shall ensure the following:

(1) The primary missions for Air and Marine Operations are to directly support the following:

(A) U.S. Border Patrol activities along the borders of the United States.

(B) Joint Interagency Task Force South and Joint Task Force East operations in the transit zone.

(2) The Executive Assistant Commissioner of Air and Marine Operations assigns the greatest priority to support missions specified in paragraph (1).

(d) HIGH DEMAND FLIGHT HOUR REQUIREMENTS.—The Commissioner shall—

(1) ensure that U.S. Border Patrol Sector Chiefs identify air support mission-critical hours; and

(2) direct Air and Marine Operations to support requests from such Sector Chiefs as a compo-
nent of the primary mission of Air and Marine Operations in accordance with subsection (e)(1)(A).

(c) Contract Air Support Authorizations.—

The Commissioner shall contract for air support mission-critical hours to meet the requests for such hours, as identified pursuant to subsection (d).

(f) Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems.—

(1) In general.—The Chief of the U.S. Border Patrol shall be the executive agent with respect to the use of small unmanned aircraft by CBP for the purposes of the following:

   (A) Meeting the unmet flight hour operational requirements of the U.S. Border Patrol.

   (B) Achieving situational awareness and operational control of the borders of the United States.

(2) Coordination.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Chief of the U.S. Border Patrol shall coordinate—

   (A) flight operations with the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to ensure the safe and efficient operation of the national airspace system; and
(B) with the Executive Assistant Commissioner for Air and Marine Operations of CBP to—

(i) ensure the safety of other CBP aircraft flying in the vicinity of small unmanned aircraft operated by the U.S. Border Patrol; and

(ii) establish a process to include data from flight hours in the calculation of got away statistics.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (3) of section 411(e) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 211(e)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” after the semicolon at the end;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D); and

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following new subparagraph:

“(C) carry out the small unmanned aircraft (as such term is defined in section 44801 of title 49, United States Code) requirements pursuant to subsection (f) of section 111 of the Secure the Border Act of 2023; and”).
(g) **Savings Clause.**—Nothing in this section may be construed as conferring, transferring, or delegating to the Secretary, the Commissioner, the Executive Assistant Commissioner for Air and Marine Operations of CBP, or the Chief of the U.S. Border Patrol any authority of the Secretary of Transportation or the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration relating to the use of air-space or aviation safety.

(h) **Definitions.**—In this section:

(1) **Got Away.**—The term “got away” has the meaning given such term in section 1092(a)(3) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328; 6 U.S.C. 223(a)(3)).

(2) **Transit Zone.**—The term “transit zone” has the meaning given such term in section 1092(a)(8) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328; 6 U.S.C. 223(a)(8)).

**SEC. 112. ERADICATION OF CARRIZO CANE AND SALT CEDAR.**

(a) **In General.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with the heads of relevant Federal, State, and local agencies, shall hire contractors to begin eradicating the
carrizo cane plant and any salt cedar along the Rio Grande River that impedes border security operations. Such eradication shall be completed—

(1) by not later than September 30, 2027, except for required maintenance; and

(2) in the most expeditious and cost-effective manner possible to maintain clear fields of view.

(b) APPLICATION.—The waiver authority under subsection (c) of section 102 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1103 note), as amended by section 103 of this division, shall apply to activities carried out pursuant to subsection (a).

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall 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 strategic plan to eradicate all carrizo cane plant and salt cedar along the Rio Grande River that impedes border security operations by not later than September 30, 2027.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated $7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028 to the Secretary to carry out this subsection.
SEC. 113. BORDER PATROL STRATEGIC PLAN.

(a) In General.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and biennially thereafter, the Commissioner, acting through the Chief of the U.S. Border Patrol, shall issue a Border Patrol Strategic Plan (referred to in this section as the “plan”) to enhance the security of the borders of the United States.

(b) Elements.—The plan shall include the following:

(1) A consideration of Border Patrol Capability Gap Analysis reporting, Border Security Improvement Plans, and any other strategic document authored by the U.S. Border Patrol to address security gaps between ports of entry, including efforts to mitigate threats identified in such analyses, plans, and documents.

(2) Information relating to the dissemination of information relating to border security or border threats with respect to the efforts of the Department and other appropriate Federal agencies.

(3) Information relating to efforts by U.S. Border Patrol to—

(A) increase situational awareness, including—

(i) surveillance capabilities, such as capabilities developed or utilized by the
Department of Defense, and any appropriate technology determined to be excess by the Department of Defense; and

(ii) the use of manned aircraft and unmanned aircraft;

(B) detect and prevent terrorists and instruments of terrorism from entering the United States;

(C) detect, interdict, and disrupt between ports of entry aliens unlawfully present in the United States;

(D) detect, interdict, and disrupt human smuggling, human trafficking, drug trafficking, and other illicit cross-border activity;

(E) focus intelligence collection to disrupt transnational criminal organizations outside of the international and maritime borders of the United States; and

(F) ensure that any new border security technology can be operationally integrated with existing technologies in use by the Department.

(4) Information relating to initiatives of the Department with respect to operational coordination, including any relevant task forces of the Department.
(5) Information gathered from the lessons learned by the deployments of the National Guard to the southern border of the United States.

(6) A description of cooperative agreements relating to information sharing with State, local, Tribal, territorial, and other Federal law enforcement agencies that have jurisdiction on the borders of the United States.

(7) Information relating to border security information received from the following:

(A) State, local, Tribal, territorial, and other Federal law enforcement agencies that have jurisdiction on the borders of the United States or in the maritime environment.

(B) Border community stakeholders, including representatives from the following:

(i) Border agricultural and ranching organizations.

(ii) Business and civic organizations.

(iii) Hospitals and rural clinics within 150 miles of the borders of the United States.

(iv) Victims of crime committed by aliens unlawfully present in the United States.
(v) Victims impacted by drugs, transnational criminal organizations, cartels, gangs, or other criminal activity.

(vi) Farmers, ranchers, and property owners along the border.

(vii) Other individuals negatively impacted by illegal immigration.

(8) Information relating to the staffing requirements with respect to border security for the Department.

(9) A prioritized list of Department research and development objectives to enhance the security of the borders of the United States.

(10) An assessment of training programs, including such programs relating to the following:

(A) Identifying and detecting fraudulent documents.

(B) Understanding the scope of CBP enforcement authorities and appropriate use of force policies.

(C) Screening, identifying, and addressing vulnerable populations, such as children and victims of human trafficking.
SEC. 114. U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION SPIRITUAL READINESS.

Not later than one year after the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter for five years, the Commissioner shall 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 availability and usage of the assistance of chaplains, prayer groups, houses of worship, and other spiritual resources for members of CBP who identify as religiously affiliated and have attempted suicide, have suicidal ideation, or are at risk of suicide, and metrics on the impact such resources have in assisting religiously affiliated members who have access to and utilize such resources compared to religiously affiliated members who do not.

SEC. 115. RESTRICTIONS ON FUNDING.

(a) ARRIVING ALIENS.—No funds are authorized to be appropriated to the Department to process the entry into the United States of aliens arriving in between ports of entry.

(b) RESTRICTION ON NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION SUPPORT FOR UNLAWFUL ACTIVITY.—No funds are authorized to be appropriated to the Department for disbursement to any nongovernmental organization that facilitates or encourages unlawful activity, including un-
lawful entry, human trafficking, human smuggling, drug
trafficking, and drug smuggling.

(c) Restriction on Nongovernmental Organization Facilitation of Illegal Immigration.—No
funds are authorized to be appropriated to the Depart-
ment for disbursement to any nongovernmental organiza-
tion to provide, or facilitate the provision of, transpor-
tation, lodging, or immigration legal services to inadmis-
sible aliens who enter the United States after the date of
the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 116. COLLECTION OF DNA AND BIOMETRIC INFORMA-
TION AT THE BORDER.

Not later than 14 days after the date of the enact-
ment of this Act, the Secretary shall ensure and certify
to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of
Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security
and Governmental Affairs of the Senate that CBP is fully
compliant with Federal DNA and biometric collection re-
quirements at United States land borders.
SEC. 117. ERADICATION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND FORMULATING EFFECTIVE NEW TOOLS TO ADDRESS YEARLY LOSSES OF LIFE; ENSURING TIMELY UPDATES TO U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION FIELD MANUALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than triennially thereafter, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall review and update, as necessary, the current policies and manuals of the Office of Field Operations related to inspections at ports of entry, and the U.S. Border Patrol related to inspections between ports of entry, to ensure the uniform implementation of inspection practices that will effectively respond to technological and methodological changes designed to disguise unlawful activity, such as the smuggling of drugs and humans, along the border.

(b) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 90 days after each update required under subsection (a), the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate a report that summarizes any policy and manual changes pursuant to subsection (a).
SEC. 118. PUBLICATION BY U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION OF OPERATIONAL STATISTICS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the seventh day of each month beginning with the second full month after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall publish on a publicly available website of the Department of Homeland Security information relating to the total number of alien encounters and nationalities, unique alien encounters and nationalities, gang affiliated apprehensions and nationalities, drug seizures, alien encounters included in the terrorist screening database and nationalities, arrests of criminal aliens or individuals wanted by law enforcement and nationalities, known got aways, encounters with deceased aliens, and all other related or associated statistics recorded by U.S. Customs and Border Protection during the immediately preceding month. Each such publication shall include the following:

(1) The aggregate such number, and such number disaggregated by geographic regions, of such recordings and encounters, including specifications relating to whether such recordings and encounters were at the southwest, northern, or maritime border.

(2) An identification of the Office of Field Operations field office, U.S. Border Patrol sector, or
Air and Marine Operations branch making each recording or encounter.

(3) Information relating to whether each recording or encounter of an alien was of a single adult, an unaccompanied alien child, or an individual in a family unit.

(4) Information relating to the processing disposition of each alien recording or encounter.

(5) Information relating to the nationality of each alien who is the subject of each recording or encounter.

(6) The total number of individuals included in the terrorist screening database (as such term is defined in section 2101 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 621)) who have repeatedly attempted to cross unlawfully into the United States.

(7) The total number of individuals included in the terrorist screening database who have been apprehended, including information relating to whether such individuals were released into the United States or removed.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—If the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection in any month does not publish the information required under subsection (a), or does not publish such information by the date specified in such sub-
section, the Commissioner shall brief the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate regarding the reason relating thereto, as the case may be, by not later than the date that is two business days after the tenth day of such month.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ALIEN ENCOUNTERS.—The term “alien encounters” means aliens apprehended, determined inadmissible, or processed for removal by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

(2) GOT AWAY.—The term “got away” has the meaning given such term in section 1092(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (6 U.S.C. 223(a)).

(3) TERRORIST SCREENING DATABASE.—The term “terrorist screening database” has the meaning given such term in section 2101 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 621).

(4) UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILD.—The term “unaccompanied alien child” has the meaning given such term in section 462(g) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g)).
SEC. 119. ALIEN CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than seven days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commissioner shall certify to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate that CBP has real-time access to the criminal history databases of all countries of origin and transit for aliens encountered by CBP to perform criminal history background checks for such aliens.

(b) STANDARDS.—The certification required under subsection (a) shall also include a determination whether the criminal history databases of a country are accurate, up to date, digitized, searchable, and otherwise meet the standards of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for criminal history databases maintained by State and local governments.

(c) CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall annually submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate a certification that each database referred to in subsection (b) which the Secretary accessed or sought
to access pursuant to this section met the standards de-
scribed in subsection (b).

SEC. 120. PROHIBITED IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS AT
AIRPORT SECURITY CHECKPOINTS; NOTIFI-
ICATION TO IMMIGRATION AGENCIES.

(a) In General.—The Administrator may not ac-
cept as valid proof of identification a prohibited identifica-
tion document at an airport security checkpoint.

(b) Notification to Immigration Agencies.—If
an individual presents a prohibited identification docu-
ment to an officer of the Transportation Security Admin-
istration at an airport security checkpoint, the Adminis-
trator shall promptly notify the Director of U.S. Immigra-
tion and Customs Enforcement, the Director of U.S. Cus-
toms and Border Protection, and the head of the appro-
priate local law enforcement agency to determine whether
the individual is in violation of any term of release from
the custody of any such agency.

(c) Entry Into Sterile Areas.—

(1) In General.—Except as provided in para-
graph (2), if an individual is found to be in violation
of any term of release under subsection (b), the Ad-
ministrator may not permit such individual to enter
a sterile area.
(2) EXCEPTION.—An individual presenting a prohibited identification document under this section may enter a sterile area if the individual—

(A) is leaving the United States for the purposes of removal or deportation; or

(B) presents a covered identification document.

(d) COLLECTION OF BIOMETRIC INFORMATION FROM CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS SEEKING ENTRY INTO THE STERILE AREA OF AN AIRPORT.—Beginning not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall collect biometric information from an individual described in subsection (e) prior to authorizing such individual to enter into a sterile area.

(e) INDIVIDUAL DESCRIBED.—An individual described in this subsection is an individual who—

(1) is seeking entry into the sterile area of an airport;

(2) does not present a covered identification document; and

(3) the Administrator cannot verify is a national of the United States.

(f) PARTICIPATION IN IDENT.—Beginning not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in coordination with the Secretary,
shall submit biometric data collected under this section to
the Automated Biometric Identification System (IDENT).

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration.

(2) BIOMETRIC INFORMATION.—The term “biometric information” means any of the following:

(A) A fingerprint.

(B) A palm print.

(C) A photograph, including—

(i) a photograph of an individual’s face for use with facial recognition technology; and

(ii) a photograph of any physical or anatomical feature, such as a scar, skin mark, or tattoo.

(D) A signature.

(E) A voice print.

(F) An iris image.

(3) COVERED IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENT.—The term “covered identification document” means any of the following, if the document is valid and unexpired:
(A) A United States passport or passport card.

(B) A biometrically secure card issued by a trusted traveler program of the Department of Homeland Security, including—

   (i) Global Entry;

   (ii) Nexus;

   (iii) Secure Electronic Network for Travelers Rapid Inspection (SENTRI);

   and

   (iv) Free and Secure Trade (FAST).

(C) An identification card issued by the Department of Defense, including such a card issued to a dependent.

(D) Any document required for admission to the United States under section 211(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1181(a)).

(E) An enhanced driver’s license issued by a State.

(F) A photo identification card issued by a federally recognized Indian Tribe.

(G) A personal identity verification credential issued in accordance with Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12.
(H) A driver’s license issued by a province of Canada.

(I) A Secure Certificate of Indian Status issued by the Government of Canada.

(J) A Transportation Worker Identification Credential.

(K) A Merchant Mariner Credential issued by the Coast Guard.

(L) A Veteran Health Identification Card issued by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(M) Any other document the Administrator determines, pursuant to a rule making in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code, will satisfy the identity verification procedures of the Transportation Security Administration.

(4) IMMIGRATION LAWS.—The term “immigration laws” has the meaning given that term in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

(5) PROHIBITED IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENT.—The term “prohibited identification document” means any of the following (or any applicable successor form):
(A) U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Form I–200, Warrant for Arrest of Alien.

(B) U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Form I–205, Warrant of Removal/Deportation.

(C) U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Form I–220A, Order of Release on Recognizance.

(D) U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Form I–220B, Order of Supervision.

(E) Department of Homeland Security Form I–862, Notice to Appear.

(F) U.S. Customs and Border Protection Form I–94, Arrival/Departure Record (including a print-out of an electronic record).


(H) Any document that directs an individual to report to the Department of Homeland Security.

(I) Any Department of Homeland Security work authorization or employment verification document.
(6) STERILE AREA.—The term “sterile area” has the meaning given that term in section 1540.5 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

SEC. 121. PROHIBITION AGAINST ANY COVID–19 VACCINE MANDATE OR ADVERSE ACTION AGAINST DHS EMPLOYEES.

(a) LIMITATION ON IMPOSITION OF NEW MANDATE.—The Secretary may not issue any COVID–19 vaccine mandate unless Congress expressly authorizes such a mandate.

(b) PROHIBITION ON ADVERSE ACTION.—The Secretary may not take any adverse action against a Department employee based solely on the refusal of such employee to receive a vaccine for COVID–19.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall report to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate on the following:

(1) The number of Department employees who were terminated or resigned due to the COVID–19 vaccine mandate.

(2) An estimate of the cost to reinstate such employees.
(3) How the Department would effectuate rein-
statement of such employees.

(d) RETENTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF
UNVACCINATED EMPLOYEES.—The Secretary shall make
every effort to retain Department employees who are not
vaccinated against COVID–19 and provide such employees
with professional development, promotion and leadership
opportunities, and consideration equal to that of their
peers.

SEC. 122. CBP ONE APP LIMITATION.

(a) LIMITATION.—The Department may use the CBP
One Mobile Application or any other similar program, ap-
lication, internet-based portal, website, device, or initia-
tive only for inspection of perishable cargo.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date
of the enactment of this Act, the Commissioner shall re-
port to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House
of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Secu-
rity and Governmental Affairs of the Senate the date on
which CBP began using CBP One to allow aliens to sched-
ule interviews at land ports of entry, how many aliens have
scheduled interviews at land ports of entry using CBP
One, the nationalities of such aliens, and the stated final
destinations of such aliens within the United States, if
any.
SEC. 123. REPORT ON MEXICAN DRUG CARTELS.

Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, Congress shall commission a report that contains the following:

(1) A national strategy to address Mexican drug cartels, and a determination regarding whether there should be a designation established to address such cartels.

(2) Information relating to actions by such cartels that causes harm to the United States.

SEC. 124. GAO STUDY ON COSTS INCURRED BY STATES TO SECURE THE SOUTHWEST BORDER.

(a) In general.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study to examine the costs incurred by individual States as a result of actions taken by such States in support of the Federal mission to secure the southwest border, and the feasibility of a program to reimburse such States for such costs.

(b) Contents.—The study required under subsection (a) shall include consideration of the following:

(1) Actions taken by the Department of Homeland Security that have contributed to costs described in such subsection incurred by States to secure the border in the absence of Federal action, including the termination of the Migrant Protection
Protocols and cancellation of border wall construction.

(2) Actions taken by individual States along the southwest border to secure their borders, and the costs associated with such actions.

(3) The feasibility of a program within the Department of Homeland Security to reimburse States for the costs incurred in support of the Federal mission to secure the southwest border.

SEC. 125. REPORT BY INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.

(a) Report.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter for five years, the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall 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 examining the economic and security impact of mass migration to municipalities and States along the southwest border. Such report shall include information regarding costs incurred by the following:

(1) State and local law enforcement to secure the southwest border.
(2) Public school districts to educate students who are aliens unlawfully present in the United States.

(3) Healthcare providers to provide care to aliens unlawfully present in the United States who have not paid for such care.

(4) Farmers and ranchers due to migration impacts to their properties.

(b) CONSULTATION.—To produce the report required under subsection (a), the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall consult with the individuals and representatives of the entities described in paragraphs (1) through (4) of such subsection.

SEC. 126. OFFSETTING AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.—No funds are authorized to be appropriated for the Alternatives to Detention Case Management Pilot Program or the Office of the Immigration Detention Ombudsman for the Office of the Secretary and Emergency Management of the Department of Homeland Security.

(b) MANAGEMENT DIRECTORATE.—No funds are authorized to be appropriated for electric vehicles or St. Eliz-
(c) **Intelligence, Analysis, and Situational Awareness.**—There is authorized to be appropriated $216,000,000 for Intelligence, Analysis, and Situational Awareness of the Department of Homeland Security.

(d) **U.S. Customs and Border Protection.**—No funds are authorized to be appropriated for the Shelter Services Program for U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

**SEC. 127. REPORT TO CONGRESS ON FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS.**

(a) **In General.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter for five years, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate an assessment of foreign terrorist organizations attempting to move their members or affiliates into the United States through the southern, northern, or maritime border.

(b) **Definition.**—In this section, the term “foreign terrorist organization” means an organization described in section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189).
SEC. 128. ASSESSMENT BY INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY ON THE MITIGATION OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS AT THE SOUTHWEST BORDER.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate an assessment of U.S. Customs and Border Protection’s ability to mitigate unmanned aircraft systems at the southwest border. Such assessment shall include information regarding any intervention between January 1, 2021, and the date of the enactment of this Act, by any Federal agency affecting in any manner U.S. Customs and Border Protection’s authority to so mitigate such systems.

DIVISION D—IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

TITLE I—ASYLUM REFORM AND BORDER PROTECTION

SEC. 101. SAFE THIRD COUNTRY.

Section 208(a)(2)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158(a)(2)(A)) is amended—
(1) by striking “if the Attorney General deter-
mines” and inserting “if the Attorney General or the
Secretary of Homeland Security determines—”;

(2) by striking “that the alien may be removed”
and inserting the following:

“(i) that the alien may be removed”;

(3) by striking “, pursuant to a bilateral or
multilateral agreement, to” and inserting “to”;

(4) by inserting “or the Secretary, on a case by
case basis,” before “finds that”;

(5) by striking the period at the end and insert-
ing “; or”; and

(6) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) that the alien entered, attempted to enter,
or arrived in the United States after transiting
through at least one country outside the alien’s
country of citizenship, nationality, or last lawful ha-
bitual residence en route to the United States, un-
less—

“(I) the alien demonstrates that he or she
applied for protection from persecution or tor-
ture in at least one country outside the alien’s
country of citizenship, nationality, or last lawful
habitual residence through which the alien
transited en route to the United States, and the
alien received a final judgment denying the alien protection in each country;

“(II) the alien demonstrates that he or she was a victim of a severe form of trafficking in which a commercial sex act was induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act was under the age of 18 years; or in which the trafficking included the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery, and was unable to apply for protection from persecution in each country through which the alien transited en route to the United States as a result of such severe form of trafficking; or

“(III) the only countries through which the alien transited en route to the United States were, at the time of the transit, not parties to the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, or the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other
Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.”.

SEC. 102. CREDIBLE FEAR INTERVIEWS.

Section 235(b)(1)(B)(v) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1225(b)(1)(B)(v)) is amended by striking “there is a significant possibility” and all that follows, and inserting “, taking into account the credibility of the statements made by the alien in support of the alien’s claim, as determined pursuant to section 208(b)(1)(B)(iii), and such other facts as are known to the officer, the alien more likely than not could establish eligibility for asylum under section 208, and it is more likely than not that the statements made by, and on behalf of, the alien in support of the alien’s claim are true.”.

SEC. 103. CLARIFICATION OF ASYLUM ELIGIBILITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 208(b)(1)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158(b)(1)(A)) is amended by inserting after “section 101(a)(42)(A)” the following: “(in accordance with the rules set forth in this section), and is eligible to apply for asylum under subsection (a)”.

(b) PLACE OF ARRIVAL.—Section 208(a)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158(a)(1)) is amended—
(1) by striking “or who arrives in the United States (whether or not at a designated port of arrival and including an alien who is brought to the United States after having been interdicted in international or United States waters),”; and

(2) by inserting after “United States” the following: “and has arrived in the United States at a port of entry (including an alien who is brought to the United States after having been interdicted in international or United States waters),”.

**SEC. 104. EXCEPTIONS.**

Paragraph (2) of section 208(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158(b)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

“(2) EXCEPTIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to an alien if the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General determines that—

“(i) the alien ordered, incited, assisted, or otherwise participated in the persecution of any person on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion;
“(ii) the alien has been convicted of any felony under Federal, State, tribal, or local law;

“(iii) the alien has been convicted of any misdemeanor offense under Federal, State, tribal, or local law involving—

“(I) the unlawful possession or use of an identification document, authentication feature, or false identification document (as those terms and phrases are defined in the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred), unless the alien can establish that the conviction resulted from circumstances showing that—

“(aa) the document or feature was presented before boarding a common carrier;

“(bb) the document or feature related to the alien’s eligibility to enter the United States;

“(cc) the alien used the document or feature to depart a country wherein the alien has
claimed a fear of persecution;

and

“(dd) the alien claimed a

fear of persecution without delay

upon presenting himself or her-

self to an immigration officer

upon arrival at a United States

port of entry;

“(II) the unlawful receipt of a

Federal public benefit (as defined in

section 401(e) of the Personal Re-

sponsibility and Work Opportunity

Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C.

1611(c))), from a Federal entity, or

the unlawful receipt of similar public

benefits from a State, tribal, or local

entity; or

“(III) possession or trafficking of

a controlled substance or controlled

substance paraphernalia, as those

phrases are defined under the law of

the jurisdiction where the conviction

occurred, other than a single offense

involving possession for one’s own use

of 30 grams or less of marijuana (as
marijuana is defined under the law of the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred);

“(iv) the alien has been convicted of an offense arising under paragraph (1)(A) or (2) of section 274(a), or under section 276;

“(v) the alien has been convicted of a Federal, State, tribal, or local crime that the Attorney General or Secretary of Homeland Security knows, or has reason to believe, was committed in support, promotion, or furtherance of the activity of a criminal street gang (as defined under the law of the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred or in section 521(a) of title 18, United States Code);

“(vi) the alien has been convicted of an offense for driving while intoxicated or impaired, as those terms are defined under the law of the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred (including a conviction for driving while under the influence of or impaired by alcohol or drugs), without regard to whether the conviction is classified as a
misdemeanor or felony under Federal, State, tribal, or local law, in which such intoxicated or impaired driving was a cause of serious bodily injury or death of another person;

“(vii) the alien has been convicted of more than one offense for driving while intoxicated or impaired, as those terms are defined under the law of the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred (including a conviction for driving while under the influence of or impaired by alcohol or drugs), without regard to whether the conviction is classified as a misdemeanor or felony under Federal, State, tribal, or local law;

“(viii) the alien has been convicted of a crime—

“(I) that involves conduct amounting to a crime of stalking;

“(II) of child abuse, child neglect, or child abandonment; or

“(III) that involves conduct amounting to a domestic assault or battery offense, including—
“(aa) a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence, as described in section 921(a)(33) of title 18, United States Code;

“(bb) a crime of domestic violence, as described in section 40002(a)(12) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(12)); or

“(cc) any crime based on conduct in which the alien harassed, coerced, intimidated, voluntarily or recklessly used (or threatened to use) force or violence against, or inflicted physical injury or physical pain, however slight, upon a person—

“(AA) who is a current or former spouse of the alien;

“(BB) with whom the alien shares a child;

“(CC) who is cohabitating with, or who has
cohabitated with, the alien
as a spouse;

“(DD) who is similarly
situated to a spouse of the
alien under the domestic or
family violence laws of the
jurisdiction where the off-
ense occurred; or

“(EE) who is protected
from that alien’s acts under
the domestic or family vio-
ience laws of the United
States or of any State, tribal
government, or unit of local
government;

“(ix) the alien has engaged in acts of
battery or extreme cruelty upon a person
and the person—

“(I) is a current or former
spouse of the alien;

“(II) shares a child with the
alien;

“(III) cohabitates or has
cohabitated with the alien as a spouse;
“(IV) is similarly situated to a spouse of the alien under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction where the offense occurred; or

“(V) is protected from that alien’s acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the United States or of any State, tribal government, or unit of local government;

“(x) the alien, having been convicted by a final judgment of a particularly serious crime, constitutes a danger to the community of the United States;

“(xi) there are serious reasons for believing that the alien has committed a serious nonpolitical crime outside the United States prior to the arrival of the alien in the United States;

“(xii) there are reasonable grounds for regarding the alien as a danger to the security of the United States;

“(xiii) the alien is described in subclause (I), (II), (III), (IV), or (VI) of section 212(a)(3)(B)(i) or section 237(a)(4)(B) (relating to terrorist activ-
(i) unadmissible under subclause (IV) of section 212(a)(3)(B)(i), the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General determines, in the Secretary’s or the Attorney General’s discretion, that there are not reasonable grounds for regarding the alien as a danger to the security of the United States;

“(xiv) the alien was firmly resettled in another country prior to arriving in the United States; or

“(xv) there are reasonable grounds for concluding the alien could avoid persecution by relocating to another part of the alien’s country of nationality or, in the case of an alien having no nationality, another part of the alien’s country of last habitual residence.

“(B) SPECIAL RULES.—

“(i) PARTICULARLY SERIOUS CRIME;

SERIOUS NONPOLITICAL CRIME OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(x), the Attorney
General or Secretary of Homeland Security, in their discretion, may determine that a conviction constitutes a particularly serious crime based on—

“(aa) the nature of the conviction;

“(bb) the type of sentence imposed; or

“(cc) the circumstances and underlying facts of the conviction.

“(II) Determination.—In making a determination under subclause (I), the Attorney General or Secretary of Homeland Security may consider all reliable information and is not limited to facts found by the criminal court or provided in the underlying record of conviction.

“(III) Treatment of felonies.—In making a determination under subclause (I), an alien who has been convicted of a felony (as defined under this section) or an aggravated felony (as defined under section
101(a)(43)), shall be considered to have been convicted of a particularly serious crime.

“(IV) INTERPOL RED NOTICE.—

In making a determination under subparagraph (A)(xi), an Interpol Red Notice may constitute reliable evidence that the alien has committed a serious nonpolitical crime outside the United States.

“(ii) CRIMES AND EXCEPTIONS.—

“(I) DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED OR IMPAIRED.—A finding under subparagraph (A)(vi) does not require the Attorney General or Secretary of Homeland Security to find the first conviction for driving while intoxicated or impaired (including a conviction for driving while under the influence of or impaired by alcohol or drugs) as a predicate offense. The Attorney General or Secretary of Homeland Security need only make a factual determination that the alien previously was convicted for driving while
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intoxicated or impaired as those terms
are defined under the jurisdiction
where the conviction occurred (including a conviction for driving while
under the influence of or impaired by
alcohol or drugs).

“(II) STALKING AND OTHER
CRIMES.—In making a determination
under subparagraph (A)(viii), including determining the existence of a do-
mestic relationship between the alien
and the victim, the underlying conduct
of the crime may be considered, and
the Attorney General or Secretary of
Homeland Security is not limited to
facts found by the criminal court or
provided in the underlying record of
conviction.

“(III) BATTERY OR EXTREME
CRUELTY.—In making a determina-
tion under subparagraph (A)(ix), the
phrase ‘battery or extreme cruelty’ in-
cludes—

“(aa) any act or threatened
act of violence, including any
forceful detention, which results

or threatens to result in physical

or mental injury;

“(bb) psychological or sexual

abuse or exploitation, including

rape, molestation, incest, or

forced prostitution, shall be con-

sidered acts of violence; and

“(cc) other abusive acts, in-

cluding acts that, in and of them-

selves, may not initially appear

violent, but that are a part of an

overall pattern of violence.

“(IV) EXCEPTION FOR VICTIMS

OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.—An alien

who was convicted of an offense de-

scribed in clause (viii) or (ix) of sub-

paragraph (A) is not ineligible for

asylum on that basis if the alien satis-

fies the criteria under section

237(a)(7)(A).

“(C) SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES.—Para-

graph (1) shall not apply to an alien whose

claim is based on—
“(i) personal animus or retribution, including personal animus in which the alleged persecutor has not targeted, or manifested an animus against, other members of an alleged particular social group in addition to the member who has raised the claim at issue;

“(ii) the applicant’s generalized disapproval of, disagreement with, or opposition to criminal, terrorist, gang, guerrilla, or other non-state organizations absent expressive behavior in furtherance of a discrete cause against such organizations related to control of a State or expressive behavior that is antithetical to the State or a legal unit of the State;

“(iii) the applicant’s resistance to recruitment or coercion by guerrilla, criminal, gang, terrorist, or other non-state organizations;

“(iv) the targeting of the applicant for criminal activity for financial gain based on wealth or affluence or perceptions of wealth or affluence;
“(v) the applicant’s criminal activity;

or

“(vi) the applicant’s perceived, past or present, gang affiliation.

“(D) Definitions and clarifications.—

“(i) Definitions.—For purposes of this paragraph:

“(I) Felony.—The term ‘felony’ means—

“(aa) any crime defined as a felony by the relevant jurisdiction (Federal, State, tribal, or local) of conviction; or

“(bb) any crime punishable by more than one year of imprisonment.

“(II) Misdemeanor.—The term ‘misdemeanor’ means—

“(aa) any crime defined as a misdemeanor by the relevant jurisdiction (Federal, State, tribal, or local) of conviction; or
“(bb) any crime not punishable by more than one year of imprisonment.

“(ii) CLARIFICATIONS.—

“(I) CONSTRUCTION.—For purposes of this paragraph, whether any activity or conviction also may constitute a basis for removal is immaterial to a determination of asylum eligibility.

“(II) ATTEMPT, CONSPIRACY, OR SOLICITATION.—For purposes of this paragraph, all references to a criminal offense or criminal conviction shall be deemed to include any attempt, conspiracy, or solicitation to commit the offense or any other inchoate form of the offense.

“(III) EFFECT OF CERTAIN ORDERS.—

“(aa) IN GENERAL.—No order vacating a conviction, modifying a sentence, clarifying a sentence, or otherwise altering a conviction or sentence shall have
any effect under this paragraph unless the Attorney General or Secretary of Homeland Security determines that—

“(AA) the court issuing the order had jurisdiction and authority to do so; and

“(BB) the order was not entered for rehabilitative purposes or for purposes of ameliorating the immigration consequences of the conviction or sentence.

“(bb) AMELIORATING IMMIGRATION CONSEQUENCES.—For purposes of item (aa)(BB), the order shall be presumed to be for the purpose of ameliorating immigration consequences if—

“(AA) the order was entered after the initiation of any proceeding to remove the alien from the United States; or
“(BB) the alien moved for the order more than one year after the date of the original order of conviction or sentencing, whichever is later.

“(cc) AUTHORITY OF IMMIGRATION JUDGE.—An immigration judge is not limited to consideration only of material included in any order vacating a conviction, modifying a sentence, or clarifying a sentence to determine whether such order should be given any effect under this paragraph, but may consider such additional information as the immigration judge determines appropriate.

“(E) ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General may by regulation establish additional limitations and conditions, consistent with this section, under which an alien shall be ineligible for asylum under paragraph (1).
(F) No judicial review.—There shall be no judicial review of a determination of the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General under subparagraph (A)(xiii).

SEC. 105. EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION.

Paragraph (2) of section 208(d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158(d)) is amended to read as follows:

“(2) Employment authorization.—

“(A) Authorization permitted.—An applicant for asylum is not entitled to employment authorization, but such authorization may be provided under regulation by the Secretary of Homeland Security. An applicant who is not otherwise eligible for employment authorization shall not be granted such authorization prior to the date that is 180 days after the date of filing of the application for asylum.

“(B) Termination.—Each grant of employment authorization under subparagraph (A), and any renewal or extension thereof, shall be valid for a period of 6 months, except that such authorization, renewal, or extension shall terminate prior to the end of such 6 month period as follows:
“(i) Immediately following the denial of an asylum application by an asylum officer, unless the case is referred to an immigration judge.

“(ii) 30 days after the date on which an immigration judge denies an asylum application, unless the alien timely appeals to the Board of Immigration Appeals.

“(iii) Immediately following the denial by the Board of Immigration Appeals of an appeal of a denial of an asylum application.

“(C) RENEWAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may not grant, renew, or extend employment authorization to an alien if the alien was previously granted employment authorization under subparagraph (A), and the employment authorization was terminated pursuant to a circumstance described in subparagraph (B)(i), (ii), or (iii), unless a Federal court of appeals remands the alien’s case to the Board of Immigration Appeals.

“(D) INELIGIBILITY.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may not grant employment
authorization to an alien under this paragraph if the alien—

“(i) is ineligible for asylum under subsection (b)(2)(A); or

“(ii) entered or attempted to enter the United States at a place and time other than lawfully through a United States port of entry.”.

SEC. 106. ASYLUM FEES.

Paragraph (3) of section 208(d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158(d)) is amended to read as follows:

“(3) FEES.—

“(A) APPLICATION FEE.—A fee of not less than $50 for each application for asylum shall be imposed. Such fee shall not exceed the cost of adjudicating the application. Such fee shall not apply to an unaccompanied alien child who files an asylum application in proceedings under section 240.

“(B) EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION.—A fee may also be imposed for the consideration of an application for employment authorization under this section and for adjustment of status
under section 209(b). Such a fee shall not exceed the cost of adjudicating the application.

“(C) PAYMENT.—Fees under this paragraph may be assessed and paid over a period of time or by installments.

“(D) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to limit the authority of the Attorney General or Secretary of Homeland Security to set adjudication and naturalization fees in accordance with section 286(m).”.

SEC. 107. RULES FOR DETERMINING ASYLUM ELIGIBILITY.

Section 208 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) RULES FOR DETERMINING ASYLUM ELIGIBILITY.—In making a determination under subsection (b)(1)(A) with respect to whether an alien is a refugee within the meaning of section 101(a)(42)(A), the following shall apply:

“(1) PARTICULAR SOCIAL GROUP.—The Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General shall not determine that an alien is a member of a particular social group unless the alien articulates on the record, or provides a basis on the record
for determining, the definition and boundaries of the alleged particular social group, establishes that the particular social group exists independently from the alleged persecution, and establishes that the alien’s claim of membership in a particular social group does not involve—

“(A) past or present criminal activity or association (including gang membership);

“(B) presence in a country with generalized violence or a high crime rate;

“(C) being the subject of a recruitment effort by criminal, terrorist, or persecutory groups;

“(D) the targeting of the applicant for criminal activity for financial gain based on perceptions of wealth or affluence;

“(E) interpersonal disputes of which governmental authorities in the relevant society or region were unaware or uninvolved;

“(F) private criminal acts of which governmental authorities in the relevant society or region were unaware or uninvolved;

“(G) past or present terrorist activity or association;
“(H) past or present persecutory activity or association; or

“(I) status as an alien returning from the United States.

“(2) POLITICAL OPINION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General may not determine that an alien holds a political opinion with respect to which the alien is subject to persecution if the political opinion is constituted solely by generalized disapproval of, disagreement with, or opposition to criminal, terrorist, gang, guerilla, or other non-state organizations and does not include expressive behavior in furtherance of a cause against such organizations related to efforts by the State to control such organizations or behavior that is antithetical to or otherwise opposes the ruling legal entity of the State or a unit thereof.

“(3) PERSECUTION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General may not determine that an alien has been subject to persecution or has a well-founded fear of persecution based only on—

“(A) the existence of laws or government policies that are unenforced or infrequently enforced, unless there is credible evidence that
such a law or policy has been or would be applied to the applicant personally; or

“(B) the conduct of rogue foreign government officials acting outside the scope of their official capacity.

“(4) DISCRETIONARY DETERMINATION.—

“(A) ADVERSE DISCRETIONARY FACTORS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General may only grant asylum to an alien if the alien establishes that he or she warrants a favorable exercise of discretion. In making such a determination, the Attorney General or Secretary of Homeland Security shall consider, if applicable, an alien’s use of fraudulent documents to enter the United States, unless the alien arrived in the United States by air, sea, or land directly from the applicant’s home country without transiting through any other country.

“(B) FAVORABLE EXERCISE OF DISCRETION NOT PERMITTED.—Except as provided in subparagraph (C), the Attorney General or Secretary of Homeland Security shall not favorably exercise discretion under this section for any alien who—
“(i) has accrued more than one year of unlawful presence in the United States, as defined in sections 212(a)(9)(B)(ii) and (iii), prior to filing an application for asylum;

“(ii) at the time the asylum application is filed with the immigration court or is referred from the Department of Homeland Security, has—

“(I) failed to timely file (or timely file a request for an extension of time to file) any required Federal, State, or local income tax returns;

“(II) failed to satisfy any outstanding Federal, State, or local tax obligations; or

“(III) income that would result in tax liability under section 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and that was not reported to the Internal Revenue Service;

“(iii) has had two or more prior asylum applications denied for any reason;
“(iv) has withdrawn a prior asylum application with prejudice or been found to have abandoned a prior asylum application;
“(v) failed to attend an interview regarding his or her asylum application with the Department of Homeland Security, unless the alien shows by a preponderance of the evidence that—
“(I) exceptional circumstances prevented the alien from attending the interview; or
“(II) the interview notice was not mailed to the last address provided by the alien or the alien’s representative and neither the alien nor the alien’s representative received notice of the interview; or
“(vi) was subject to a final order of removal, deportation, or exclusion and did not file a motion to reopen to seek asylum based on changed country conditions within one year of the change in country conditions.
“(C) EXCEPTIONS.—If one or more of the adverse discretionary factors set forth in sub-
paragraph (B) are present, the Attorney General or the Secretary, may, notwithstanding such subparagraph (B), favorably exercise discretion under section 208—

“(i) in extraordinary circumstances, such as those involving national security or foreign policy considerations; or

“(ii) if the alien, by clear and convincing evidence, demonstrates that the denial of the application for asylum would result in exceptional and extremely unusual hardship to the alien.

“(5) LIMITATION.—If the Secretary or the Attorney General determines that an alien fails to satisfy the requirement under paragraph (1), the alien may not be granted asylum based on membership in a particular social group, and may not appeal the determination of the Secretary or Attorney General, as applicable. A determination under this paragraph shall not serve as the basis for any motion to reopen or reconsider an application for asylum or withholding of removal for any reason, including a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel, unless the alien complies with the procedural requirements for such a motion and demonstrates that counsel’s failure to
define, or provide a basis for defining, a formulation of a particular social group was both not a strategic choice and constituted egregious conduct.

“(6) STEREOTYPES.—Evidence offered in support of an application for asylum that promotes cultural stereotypes about a country, its inhabitants, or an alleged persecutor, including stereotypes based on race, religion, nationality, or gender, shall not be admissible in adjudicating that application, except that evidence that an alleged persecutor holds stereotypical views of the applicant shall be admissible.

“(7) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(A) The term ‘membership in a particular social group’ means membership in a group that is—

“(i) composed of members who share a common immutable characteristic;

“(ii) defined with particularity; and

“(iii) socially distinct within the society in question.

“(B) The term ‘political opinion’ means an ideal or conviction in support of the furtherance of a discrete cause related to political control of a state or a unit thereof.
“(C) The term ‘persecution’ means the infliction of a severe level of harm constituting an exigent threat by the government of a country or by persons or an organization that the government was unable or unwilling to control. Such term does not include—

“(i) generalized harm or violence that arises out of civil, criminal, or military strife in a country;

“(ii) all treatment that the United States regards as unfair, offensive, unjust, unlawful, or unconstitutional;

“(iii) intermittent harassment, including brief detentions;

“(iv) threats with no actual effort to carry out the threats, except that particularized threats of severe harm of an immediate and menacing nature made by an identified entity may constitute persecution; or

“(v) non-severe economic harm or property damage.”.
Section 208 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158), as amended by this title, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) FIRM RESETTLEMENT.—In determining whether an alien was firmly resettled in another country prior to arriving in the United States under subsection (b)(2)(A)(xiv), the following shall apply:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An alien shall be considered to have firmly resettled in another country if, after the events giving rise to the alien’s asylum claim—

“(A) the alien resided in a country through which the alien transited prior to arriving in or entering the United States and—

“(i) received or was eligible for any permanent legal immigration status in that country;

“(ii) resided in such a country with any non-permanent but indefinitely renewable legal immigration status (including asylee, refugee, or similar status, but excluding status of a tourist); or

“(iii) resided in such a country and could have applied for and obtained an immigration status described in clause (ii);
“(B) the alien physically resided voluntarily, and without continuing to suffer persecution or torture, in any one country for one year or more after departing his country of nationality or last habitual residence and prior to arrival in or entry into the United States, except for any time spent in Mexico by an alien who is not a native or citizen of Mexico solely as a direct result of being returned to Mexico pursuant to section 235(b)(3) or of being subject to metering; or

“(C) the alien is a citizen of a country other than the country in which the alien alleges a fear of persecution, or was a citizen of such a country in the case of an alien who renounces such citizenship, and the alien was present in that country after departing his country of nationality or last habitual residence and prior to arrival in or entry into the United States.

“(2) Burden of Proof.—If an immigration judge determines that an alien has firmly resettled in another country under paragraph (1), the alien shall bear the burden of proving the bar does not apply.
“(3) Firm resettlement of parent.—An alien shall be presumed to have been firmly resettled in another country if the alien’s parent was firmly resettled in another country, the parent’s resettlement occurred before the alien turned 18 years of age, and the alien resided with such parent at the time of the firm resettlement, unless the alien establishes that he or she could not have derived any permanent legal immigration status or any non-permanent but indefinitely renewable legal immigration status (including asylum, refugee, or similar status, but excluding status of a tourist) from the alien’s parent.”.

SEC. 109. NOTICE CONCERNING FRIVOLOUS ASYLUM APPLICATIONS.

(a) In general.—Section 208(d)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158(d)(4)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “the Secretary of Homeland Security or” before “the Attorney General”; 

(2) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and of the consequences, under paragraph (6), of knowingly filing a frivolous application for asylum; and” and inserting a semicolon;
(3) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) ensure that a written warning appears on the asylum application advising the alien of the consequences of filing a frivolous application and serving as notice to the alien of the consequence of filing a frivolous application.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 208(d)(6) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158(d)(6)) is amended by striking “If the” and all that follows and inserting:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General determines that an alien has knowingly made a frivolous application for asylum and the alien has received the notice under paragraph (4)(C), the alien shall be permanently ineligible for any benefits under this chapter, effective as the date of the final determination of such an application.

“(B) CRITERIA.—An application is frivolous if the Secretary of Homeland Security or
the Attorney General determines, consistent with subparagraph (C), that—

“(i) it is so insufficient in substance that it is clear that the applicant knowingly filed the application solely or in part to delay removal from the United States, to seek employment authorization as an applicant for asylum pursuant to regulations issued pursuant to paragraph (2), or to seek issuance of a Notice to Appear in order to pursue Cancellation of Removal under section 240A(b); or

“(ii) any of the material elements are knowingly fabricated.

“(C) SUFFICIENT OPPORTUNITY TO CLARIFY.—In determining that an application is frivolous, the Secretary or the Attorney General, must be satisfied that the applicant, during the course of the proceedings, has had sufficient opportunity to clarify any discrepancies or implausible aspects of the claim.

“(D) WITHHOLDING OF REMOVAL NOT PRECLUDED.—For purposes of this section, a finding that an alien filed a frivolous asylum application shall not preclude the alien from
seeking withholding of removal under section 241(b)(3) or protection pursuant to the Convention Against Torture.”.

SEC. 110. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.

Section 208 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2)(D), by inserting “Secretary of Homeland Security or the” before “Attorney General”; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by inserting “Secretary of Homeland Security or the” before “Attorney General”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “Attorney General” each place such term appears and inserting “Secretary of Homeland Security”;

(B) in paragraph (2), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “Secretary of Homeland Security or the” before “Attorney General”; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by inserting “Secretary of Homeland Security or the” before “Attorney General”; and

(3) in subsection (d)—
(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “Secretary of Homeland Security or the” before “Attorney General” each place such term appears; and

(B) in paragraph (5)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “Attorney General” and inserting “Secretary of Homeland Security”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “Secretary of Homeland Security or the” before “Attorney General”.

SEC. 111. REQUIREMENT FOR PROCEDURES RELATING TO CERTAIN ASYLUM APPLICATIONS.

(a) In General.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall establish procedures to expedite the adjudication of asylum applications for aliens—

(1) who are subject to removal proceedings under section 240 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229a); and

(2) who are nationals of a Western Hemisphere country sanctioned by the United States, as described in subsection (b), as of January 1, 2023.

(b) Western Hemisphere Country Sanctioned By the United States Described.—Subsection (a)
shall apply only to an asylum application filed by an alien who is a national of a Western Hemisphere country subject to sanctions pursuant to—

(1) the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (22 U.S.C. 6021 note);

(2) the Reinforcing Nicaragua’s Adherence to Conditions for Electoral Reform Act of 2021 or the RENACER Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 note); or

(3) Executive Order 13692 (80 Fed. Reg. 12747; declaring a national emergency with respect to the situation in Venezuela).

c) APPLICABILITY.—This section shall only apply to an alien who files an application for asylum after the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE II—BORDER SAFETY AND MIGRANT PROTECTION

SEC. 201. INSPECTION OF APPLICANTS FOR ADMISSION.

Section 235 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1225) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in clauses (i) and (ii), by striking “section 212(a)(6)(C)” in-
serting “subparagraph (A) or (C) of section 212(a)(6)”; and

(II) by adding at the end the following:

“(iv) INELIGIBILITY FOR PAROLE.—

An alien described in clause (i) or (ii) shall not be eligible for parole except as expressly authorized pursuant to section 212(d)(5), or for parole or release pursuant to section 236(a).”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in clause (ii), by striking “asylum.” and inserting “asylum and shall not be released (including pursuant to parole or release pursuant to section 236(a) but excluding as expressly authorized pursuant to section 212(d)(5)) other than to be removed or returned to a country as described in paragraph (3).”; and

(II) in clause (iii)(IV)—

(aa) in the header by striking “DETECTION” and inserting “DETECTION, RETURN, OR REMOVAL”; and
(bb) by adding at the end the following: “The alien shall not be released (including pursuant to parole or release pursuant to section 236(a) but excluding as expressly authorized pursuant to section 212(d)(5)) other than to be removed or returned to a country as described in paragraph (3).”; (B) in paragraph (2)— (i) in subparagraph (A)— (I) by striking “Subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C),” and inserting “Subject to subparagraph (B) and paragraph (3),”; and (II) by adding at the end the following: “The alien shall not be released (including pursuant to parole or release pursuant to section 236(a) but excluding as expressly authorized pursuant to section 212(d)(5)) other than to be removed or returned to a country as described in paragraph (3).”; and
(ii) by striking subparagraph (C);

(C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (5); and

(D) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) Return to foreign territory contiguous to the United States.—

“(A) In general.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may return to a foreign territory contiguous to the United States any alien arriving on land from that territory (whether or not at a designated port of entry) pending a proceeding under section 240 or review of a determination under subsection (b)(1)(B)(iii)(III).

“(B) Mandatory return.—If at any time the Secretary of Homeland Security cannot—

“(i) comply with its obligations to detain an alien as required under clauses (ii) and (iii)(IV) of subsection (b)(1)(B) and subsection (b)(2)(A); or

“(ii) remove an alien to a country described in section 208(a)(2)(A),

the Secretary of Homeland Security shall, without exception, including pursuant to parole or
release pursuant to section 236(a) but excluding as expressly authorized pursuant to section 212(d)(5), return to a foreign territory contiguous to the United States any alien arriving on land from that territory (whether or not at a designated port of entry) pending a proceeding under section 240 or review of a determination under subsection (b)(1)(B)(iii)(III).

“(4) Enforcement by state attorneys general.—The attorney general of a State, or other authorized State officer, alleging a violation of the detention, return, or removal requirements under paragraph (1), (2), or (3) that affects such State or its residents, may bring an action against the Secretary of Homeland Security on behalf of the residents of the State in an appropriate United States district court to obtain appropriate injunctive relief.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(e) Authority to prohibit introduction of certain aliens.—If the Secretary of Homeland Security determines, in his discretion, that the prohibition of the introduction of aliens who are inadmissible under subparagraph (A) or (C) of section 212(a)(6) or under section 212(a)(7) at an international land or maritime border of
the United States is necessary to achieve operational control (as defined in section 2 of the Secure Fence Act of 2006 (8 U.S.C. 1701 note)) of such border, the Secretary may prohibit, in whole or in part, the introduction of such aliens at such border for such period of time as the Secretary determines is necessary for such purpose.”.

SEC. 202. OPERATIONAL DETENTION FACILITIES.

(a) In General.—Not later than September 30, 2023, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall take all necessary actions to reopen or restore all U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facilities that were in operation on January 20, 2021, that subsequently closed or with respect to which the use was altered, reduced, or discontinued after January 20, 2021. In carrying out the requirement under this subsection, the Secretary may use the authority under section 103(a)(11) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1103(a)(11)).

(b) Specific Facilities.—The requirement under subsection (a) shall include at a minimum, reopening, or restoring, the following facilities:

(1) Irwin County Detention Center in Georgia.

(2) C. Carlos Carreiro Immigration Detention Center in Bristol County, Massachusetts.
(3) Etowah County Detention Center in Gadsden, Alabama.

(4) Glades County Detention Center in Moore Haven, Florida.

(5) South Texas Family Residential Center.

(c) EXCEPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), the Secretary of Homeland Security is authorized to obtain equivalent capacity for detention facilities at locations other than those listed in subsection (b).

(2) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may not take action under paragraph (1) unless the capacity obtained would result in a reduction of time and cost relative to the cost and time otherwise required to obtain such capacity.

(3) SOUTH TEXAS FAMILY RESIDENTIAL CENTER.—The exception under paragraph (1) shall not apply to the South Texas Family Residential Center. The Secretary shall take all necessary steps to modify and operate the South Texas Family Residential Center in the same manner and capability it was operating on January 20, 2021.

(d) PERIODIC REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days
thereafter until September 30, 2027, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a detailed plan for and a status report on—

(1) compliance with the deadline under subsection (a);

(2) the increase in detention capabilities required by this section—

   (A) for the 90-day period immediately preceding the date such report is submitted; and

   (B) for the period beginning on the first day of the fiscal year during which the report is submitted, and ending on the date such report is submitted;

(3) the number of detention beds that were used and the number of available detention beds that were not used during—

   (A) the 90-day period immediately preceding the date such report is submitted; and

   (B) the period beginning on the first day of the fiscal year during which the report is submitted, and ending on the date such report is submitted;

(4) the number of aliens released due to a lack of available detention beds; and
(5) the resources the Department of Homeland Security needs in order to comply with the requirements under this section.

(e) NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall notify Congress, and include with such notification a detailed description of the resources the Department of Homeland Security needs in order to detain all aliens whose detention is mandatory or nondiscretionary under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.)—

(1) not later than 5 days after all U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facilities reach 90 percent of capacity;

(2) not later than 5 days after all U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facilities reach 95 percent of capacity; and

(3) not later than 5 days after all U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facilities reach full capacity.

(f) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives;
(2) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives;

(3) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate; and

(4) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

TITLE III—PREVENTING UNCONTROLLED MIGRATION FLOWS IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

SEC. 301. UNITED STATES POLICY REGARDING WESTERN HEMISPHERE COOPERATION ON IMMIGRATION AND ASYLUM.

It is the policy of the United States to enter into agreements, accords, and memoranda of understanding with countries in the Western Hemisphere, the purposes of which are to advance the interests of the United States by reducing costs associated with illegal immigration and to protect the human capital, societal traditions, and economic growth of other countries in the Western Hemisphere. It is further the policy of the United States to ensure that humanitarian and development assistance funding aimed at reducing illegal immigration is not expended on programs that have not proven to reduce illegal immigrant flows in the aggregate.
SEC. 302. NEGOTIATIONS BY SECRETARY OF STATE.

(a) AUTHORIZATION TO NEGOTIATE.—The Secretary of State shall seek to negotiate agreements, accords, and memoranda of understanding between the United States, Mexico, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, and other countries in the Western Hemisphere with respect to cooperation and burden sharing required for effective regional immigration enforcement, expediting legal claims by aliens for asylum, and the processing, detention, and repatriation of foreign nationals seeking to enter the United States unlawfully. Such agreements shall be designed to facilitate a regional approach to immigration enforcement and shall, at a minimum, provide that—

(1) the Government of Mexico authorize and accept the rapid entrance into Mexico of nationals of countries other than Mexico who seek asylum in Mexico, and process the asylum claims of such nationals inside Mexico, in accordance with both domestic law and international treaties and conventions governing the processing of asylum claims;

(2) the Government of Mexico authorize and accept both the rapid entrance into Mexico of all nationals of countries other than Mexico who are ineligible for asylum in Mexico and wish to apply for asylum in the United States, whether or not at a port of entry, and the continued presence of such
nationals in Mexico while they wait for the adjudication of their asylum claims to conclude in the United States;

(3) the Government of Mexico commit to provide the individuals described in paragraphs (1) and (2) with appropriate humanitarian protections;

(4) the Government of Honduras, the Government of El Salvador, and the Government of Guatemala each authorize and accept the entrance into the respective countries of nationals of other countries seeking asylum in the applicable such country and process such claims in accordance with applicable domestic law and international treaties and conventions governing the processing of asylum claims;

(5) the Government of the United States commit to work to accelerate the adjudication of asylum claims and to conclude removal proceedings in the wake of asylum adjudications as expeditiously as possible;

(6) the Government of the United States commit to continue to assist the governments of countries in the Western Hemisphere, such as the Government of Honduras, the Government of El Salvador, and the Government of Guatemala, by sup-
porting the enhancement of asylum capacity in those
countries; and

(7) the Government of the United States com-
mit to monitoring developments in hemispheric im-
migration trends and regional asylum capabilities to
determine whether additional asylum cooperation
agreements are warranted.

(b) Notification in Accordance With Case-Za-
blocki Act.—The Secretary of State shall, in accordance
with section 112b of title 1, United States Code, promptly
inform the relevant congressional committees of each
agreement entered into pursuant to subsection (a). Such
notifications shall be submitted not later than 48 hours
after such agreements are signed.

(c) Alien Defined.—In this section, the term
“alien” has the meaning given such term in section 101

SEC. 303. MANDATORY BRIEFINGS ON UNITED STATES EF-
FORTS TO ADDRESS THE BORDER CRISIS.

(a) Briefing Required.—Not later than 90 days
after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less
frequently than once every 90 days thereafter until the
date described in subsection (b), the Secretary of State,
or the designee of the Secretary of State, shall provide
to the appropriate congressional committees an in-person
briefing on efforts undertaken pursuant to the negotiation
authority provided by section 302 of this title to monitor,
deter, and prevent illegal immigration to the United
States, including by entering into agreements, accords,
and memoranda of understanding with foreign countries
and by using United States foreign assistance to stem the
root causes of migration in the Western Hemisphere.

(b) TERMINATION OF MANDATORY BRIEFING.—The
date described in this subsection is the date on which the
Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of other
relevant Federal departments and agencies, determines
and certifies to the appropriate congressional committees
that illegal immigration flows have subsided to a manage-
able rate.

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-
FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congress-
sional committees” means the Committee on Foreign Af-
fairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee
on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

TITLE IV—ENSURING UNITED
FAMILIES AT THE BORDER

SEC. 401. CLARIFICATION OF STANDARDS FOR FAMILY DE-
TENTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 235 of the William Wil-
berforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization
Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(j) CONSTRUCTION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, judicial determination, consent decree, or settlement agreement, the detention of any alien child who is not an unaccompanied alien child shall be governed by sections 217, 235, 236, and 241 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1187, 1225, 1226, and 1231). There is no presumption that an alien child who is not an unaccompanied alien child should not be detained.

“(2) FAMILY DETENTION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall—

“(A) maintain the care and custody of an alien, during the period during which the charges described in clause (i) are pending, who—

“(i) is charged only with a misdemeanor offense under section 275(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1325(a)); and

“(ii) entered the United States with the alien’s child who has not attained 18 years of age; and
“(B) detain the alien with the alien’s child.”.

(b) Sense of Congress.—It is the sense of Congress that the amendments in this section to section 235 of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232) are intended to satisfy the requirements of the Settlement Agreement in Flores v. Meese, No. 85–4544 (C.D. Cal), as approved by the court on January 28, 1997, with respect to its interpretation in Flores v. Johnson, 212 F. Supp. 3d 864 (C.D. Cal. 2015), that the agreement applies to accompanied minors.

(c) Effective Date.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply to all actions that occur before, on, or after such date.

(d) Preemption of State Licensing Requirements.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, judicial determination, consent decree, or settlement agreement, no State may require that an immigration detention facility used to detain children who have not attained 18 years of age, or families consisting of one or more of such children and the parents or legal guardians of such children, that is located in that State, be licensed by the State or any political subdivision thereof.
TITLE V—PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

SEC. 501. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Implementation of the provisions of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 that govern unaccompanied alien children has incentivized multiple surges of unaccompanied alien children arriving at the southwest border in the years since the bill’s enactment.

(2) The provisions of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 that govern unaccompanied alien children treat unaccompanied alien children from countries that are contiguous to the United States disparately by swiftly returning them to their home country absent indications of trafficking or a credible fear of return, but allowing for the release of unaccompanied alien children from noncontiguous countries into the interior of the United States, often to those individuals who paid to smuggle them into the country in the first place.

(3) The provisions of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 governing unaccompanied alien children have enriched the cartels, who profit hundreds of millions of dollars each
year by smuggling unaccompanied alien children to
the southwest border, exploiting and sexually abus-
ing many such unaccompanied alien children on the
perilous journey.

(4) Prior to 2008, the number of unaccompan-
ied alien children encountered at the southwest
border never exceeded 1,000 in a single year.

(5) The United States is currently in the midst
of the worst crisis of unaccompanied alien children
in our nation’s history, with over 350,000 such un-
accompanied alien children encountered at the
southwest border since Joe Biden became President.

(6) In 2022, during the Biden Administration,
152,057 unaccompanied alien children were encoun-
tered, the most ever in a single year and an over
400 percent increase compared to the last full fiscal
year of the Trump Administration in which 33,239
unaccompanied alien children were encountered.

(7) The Biden Administration has lost contact
with at least 85,000 unaccompanied alien children
who entered the United States since Joe Biden took
office.

(8) The Biden Administration dismantled effec-
tive safeguards put in place by the Trump Adminis-
tration that protected unaccompanied alien children
from being abused by criminals or exploited for illegal and dangerous child labor.

(9) A recent New York Times investigation found that unaccompanied alien children are being exploited in the labor market and “are ending up in some of the most punishing jobs in the country.”.

(10) The Times investigation found unaccompanied alien children, “under intense pressure to earn money” in order to “send cash back to their families while often being in debt to their sponsors for smuggling fees, rent, and living expenses,” feared “that they had become trapped in circumstances they never could have imagined.”.

(11) The Biden Administration’s Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra compared placing unaccompanied alien children with sponsors, to widgets in an assembly line, stating that, “If Henry Ford had seen this in his plant, he would have never become famous and rich. This is not the way you do an assembly line.”.

(12) Department of Health and Human Services employees working under Secretary Xavier Becerra’s leadership penned a July 2021 memorandum expressing serious concern that “labor trafficking was increasing” and that the agency had be-
come “one that rewards individuals for making quick
releases, and not one that rewards individuals for
preventing unsafe releases.”

(13) Despite this, Secretary Xavier Becerra
pressured then-Director of the Office of Refugee Re-
settlement Cindy Huang to prioritize releases of un-
accompanied alien children over ensuring their safe-
ty, telling her “if she could not increase the number
of discharges he would find someone who could” and
then-Director Huang resigned one month later.

(14) In June 2014, the Obama-Biden Adminis-
tration requested legal authority to exercise discre-
tion in returning and removing unaccompanied alien
children from non-contiguous countries back to their
home countries.

(15) In August 2014, the House of Representa-
tives passed H.R. 5320, which included the Protec-
tion of Children Act.

(16) This title ends the disparate policies of the
Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act
of 2008 by ensuring the swift return of all unaccomp-
panied alien children to their country of origin if
they are not victims of trafficking and do not have
a fear of return.
SEC. 502. REPATRIATION OF UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.

(a) In General.—Section 235 of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by amending the heading to read as follows: “RULES FOR UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.—”;

(ii) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “who is a national or habitual resident of a country that is contiguous with the United States”;

(II) in clause (i), by inserting “and” at the end;

(III) in clause (ii), by striking “; and” and inserting a period; and

(IV) by striking clause (iii); and

(iii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “(8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.) may—” and inserting “(8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.)—”;

...
(II) in clause (i), by inserting before “permit such child to withdraw” the following: “may”; and

(III) in clause (ii), by inserting before “return such child” the following: “shall”; and

(B) in paragraph (5)(D)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “, except for an unaccompanied alien child from a contiguous country subject to exceptions under subsection (a)(2),” and inserting “who does not meet the criteria listed in paragraph (2)(A)”;

(ii) in clause (i), by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: “, which shall include a hearing before an immigration judge not later than 14 days after being screened under paragraph (4)”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting before the semicolon the following: “believed not to meet the criteria listed in subsection (a)(2)(A)”;

and
(ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting before the period the following: “and does not meet the criteria listed in subsection (a)(2)(A)”; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “an unaccompanied alien child in custody shall” and all that follows, and inserting the following: “an unaccompanied alien child in custody—

“(A) in the case of a child who does not meet the criteria listed in subsection (a)(2)(A), shall transfer the custody of such child to the Secretary of Health and Human Services not later than 30 days after determining that such child is an unaccompanied alien child who does not meet such criteria; or

“(B) in the case of a child who meets the criteria listed in subsection (a)(2)(A), may transfer the custody of such child to the Secretary of Health and Human Services after determining that such child is an unaccompanied alien child who meets such criteria.”; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by inserting at the end the following:
“(D) Information about individuals with whom children are placed.—

“(i) Information to be provided to Homeland Security.—Before placing a child with an individual, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide to the Secretary of Homeland Security, regarding the individual with whom the child will be placed, information on—

“(I) the name of the individual;

“(II) the social security number of the individual;

“(III) the date of birth of the individual;

“(IV) the location of the individual’s residence where the child will be placed;

“(V) the immigration status of the individual, if known; and

“(VI) contact information for the individual.

“(ii) Activities of the Secretary of Homeland Security.—Not later than 30 days after receiving the information listed in clause (i), the Secretary of Home-
land Security, upon determining that an
individual with whom a child is placed is
unlawfully present in the United States
and not in removal proceedings pursuant
to chapter 4 of title II of the Immigration
and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1221 et
seq.), shall initiate such removal pro-
ceedings.”; and
(B) in paragraph (5)—

(i) by inserting after “to the greatest
extent practicable” the following: “(at no
expense to the Government)”;
and
(ii) by striking “have counsel to rep-
resent them” and inserting “have access to
counsel to represent them”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
this section shall apply to any unaccompanied alien child
(as such term is defined in section 462(g) of the Home-
land Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g))) apprehended
on or after the date that is 30 days after the date of the
enactment of this Act.
SEC. 503. SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE STATUS FOR IMMIGRANTS UNABLE TO REUNITE WITH EITHER PARENT.


(1) in clause (i), by striking “, and whose reunification with 1 or both of the immigrant’s parents is not viable due to abuse, neglect, abandonment, or a similar basis found under State law”; and

(2) in clause (iii)—

(A) in subclause (I), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in subclause (II), by inserting “and” after the semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(III) an alien may not be granted special immigrant status under this subparagraph if the alien’s reunification with any one parent or legal guardian is not precluded by abuse, neglect, abandonment, or any similar cause under State law;”.

SEC. 504. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this title shall be construed to limit the following procedures or practices relating to an unaccom-
panied alien child (as defined in section 462(g)(2) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g)(2))):

(1) Screening of such a child for a credible fear of return to his or her country of origin.

(2) Screening of such a child to determine whether he or she was a victim of trafficking.

(3) Department of Health and Human Services policy in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act requiring a home study for such a child if he or she is under 12 years of age.

**TITLE VI—VISA OVERSTAYS**

**PENALTIES**

**SEC. 601. EXPANDED PENALTIES FOR ILLEGAL ENTRY OR PRESENCE.**

Section 275 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1325) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by inserting after “for a subsequent commission of any such offense” the following: “or if the alien was previously convicted of an offense under subsection (e)(2)(A)”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “at least $50 and not more than $250” and inserting “not less than $500 and not more than $1,000”; and
(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting after
“in the case of an alien who has been previously
subject to a civil penalty under this subsection”
the following: “or subsection (e)(2)(B)”; and
(3) by adding at the end the following:
“(e) VISA OVERSTAYS.—
“(1) IN GENERAL.—An alien who was admitted
as a nonimmigrant has violated this paragraph if the
alien, for an aggregate of 10 days or more, has
failed—
“(A) to maintain the nonimmigrant status
in which the alien was admitted, or to which it
was changed under section 248, including com-
plying with the period of stay authorized by the
Secretary of Homeland Security in connection
with such status; or
“(B) to comply otherwise with the condi-
tions of such nonimmigrant status.
“(2) PENALTIES.—An alien who has violated
paragraph (1)—
“(A) shall—
“(i) for the first commission of such a
violation, be fined under title 18, United
States Code, or imprisoned not more than
6 months, or both; and
“(ii) for a subsequent commission of
such a violation, or if the alien was pre-
viously convicted of an offense under sub-
section (a), be fined under such title 18, or
imprisoned not more than 2 years, or both;
and
“(B) in addition to, and not in lieu of, any
penalty under subparagraph (A) and any other
criminal or civil penalties that may be imposed,
shall be subject to a civil penalty of—
“(i) not less than $500 and not more
than $1,000 for each violation; or
“(ii) twice the amount specified in
clause (i), in the case of an alien who has
been previously subject to a civil penalty
under this subparagraph or subsection
(b).”.

TITLE VII—IMMIGRATION
PAROLE REFORM

SEC. 701. IMMIGRATION PAROLE REFORM.

Section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality
Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5)) is amended to read as follows:
“(5)(A) Except as provided in subparagraphs (B)
and (C) and section 214(f), the Secretary of Homeland
Security, in the discretion of the Secretary, may tempo-
rarely parole into the United States any alien applying for admission to the United States who is not present in the United States, under such conditions as the Secretary may prescribe, on a case-by-case basis, and not according to eligibility criteria describing an entire class of potential parole recipients, for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit. Parole granted under this subparagraph may not be regarded as an admission of the alien. When the purposes of such parole have been served in the opinion of the Secretary, the alien shall immediately return or be returned to the custody from which the alien was paroled. After such return, the case of the alien shall be dealt with in the same manner as the case of any other applicant for admission to the United States.

“(B) The Secretary of Homeland Security may grant parole to any alien who—

“(i) is present in the United States without lawful immigration status;

“(ii) is the beneficiary of an approved petition under section 203(a);

“(iii) is not otherwise inadmissible or removable; and

“(iv) is the spouse or child of a member of the Armed Forces serving on active duty.
“(C) The Secretary of Homeland Security may grant parole to any alien—

“(i) who is a national of the Republic of Cuba and is living in the Republic of Cuba;

“(ii) who is the beneficiary of an approved petition under section 203(a);

“(iii) for whom an immigrant visa is not immediately available;

“(iv) who meets all eligibility requirements for an immigrant visa;

“(v) who is not otherwise inadmissible; and

“(vi) who is receiving a grant of parole in furtherance of the commitment of the United States to the minimum level of annual legal migration of Cuban nationals to the United States specified in the U.S.-Cuba Joint Communiqué on Migration, done at New York September 9, 1994, and reaffirmed in the Cuba-United States: Joint Statement on Normalization of Migration, Building on the Agreement of September 9, 1994, done at New York May 2, 1995.

“(D) The Secretary of Homeland Security may grant parole to an alien who is returned to a contiguous country under section 235(b)(3) to allow the alien to attend the alien’s immigration hearing. The grant of parole shall not
exceed the time required for the alien to be escorted to,
and attend, the alien’s immigration hearing scheduled on
the same calendar day as the grant, and to immediately
thereafter be escorted back to the contiguous country. A
grant of parole under this subparagraph shall not be con-
sidered for purposes of determining whether the alien is
inadmissible under this Act.

“(E) For purposes of determining an alien’s eligi-
bility for parole under subparagraph (A), an urgent hu-
manitarian reason shall be limited to circumstances in
which the alien establishes that—

“(i)(I) the alien has a medical emergency; and
“(II)(aa) the alien cannot obtain necessary
treatment in the foreign state in which the alien is
residing; or
“(bb) the medical emergency is life-threatening
and there is insufficient time for the alien to be ad-
mitted to the United States through the normal visa
process;
“(ii) the alien is the parent or legal guardian of
an alien described in clause (i) and the alien de-
scribed in clause (i) is a minor;
“(iii) the alien is needed in the United States
in order to donate an organ or other tissue for
transplant and there is insufficient time for the alien
to be admitted to the United States through the normal visa process;

“(iv) the alien has a close family member in the United States whose death is imminent and the alien could not arrive in the United States in time to see such family member alive if the alien were to be admitted to the United States through the normal visa process;

“(v) the alien is seeking to attend the funeral of a close family member and the alien could not arrive in the United States in time to attend such funeral if the alien were to be admitted to the United States through the normal visa process;

“(vi) the alien is an adopted child with an urgent medical condition who is in the legal custody of the petitioner for a final adoption-related visa and whose medical treatment is required before the expected award of a final adoption-related visa; or

“(vii) the alien is a lawful applicant for adjustment of status under section 245 and is returning to the United States after temporary travel abroad.

“(F) For purposes of determining an alien’s eligibility for parole under subparagraph (A), a significant public benefit may be determined to result from the parole of an alien only if—
“(i) the alien has assisted (or will assist, whether knowingly or not) the United States Government in a law enforcement matter;

“(ii) the alien’s presence is required by the Government in furtherance of such law enforcement matter; and

“(iii) the alien is inadmissible, does not satisfy the eligibility requirements for admission as a non-immigrant, or there is insufficient time for the alien to be admitted to the United States through the normal visa process.

“(G) For purposes of determining an alien’s eligibility for parole under subparagraph (A), the term ‘case-by-case basis’ means that the facts in each individual case are considered and parole is not granted based on membership in a defined class of aliens to be granted parole. The fact that aliens are considered for or granted parole one-by-one and not as a group is not sufficient to establish that the parole decision is made on a ‘case-by-case basis’.

“(H) The Secretary of Homeland Security may not use the parole authority under this paragraph to parole an alien into the United States for any reason or purpose other than those described in subparagraphs (B), (C), (D), (E), and (F).
“(I) An alien granted parole may not accept employment, except that an alien granted parole pursuant to subparagraph (B) or (C) is authorized to accept employment for the duration of the parole, as evidenced by an employment authorization document issued by the Secretary of Homeland Security.

“(J) Parole granted after a departure from the United States shall not be regarded as an admission of the alien. An alien granted parole, whether as an initial grant of parole or parole upon reentry into the United States, is not eligible to adjust status to lawful permanent residence or for any other immigration benefit if the immigration status the alien had at the time of departure did not authorize the alien to adjust status or to be eligible for such benefit.

“(K)(i) Except as provided in clauses (ii) and (iii), parole shall be granted to an alien under this paragraph for the shorter of—

“(I) a period of sufficient length to accomplish the activity described in subparagraph (D), (E), or (F) for which the alien was granted parole; or

“(II) 1 year.

“(ii) Grants of parole pursuant to subparagraph (A) may be extended once, in the discretion of the Secretary, for an additional period that is the shorter of—
“(I) the period that is necessary to accomplish
the activity described in subparagraph (E) or (F) for
which the alien was granted parole; or
“(II) 1 year.
“(iii) Aliens who have a pending application to adjust
status to permanent residence under section 245 may re-
quest extensions of parole under this paragraph, in 1-year
increments, until the application for adjustment has been
adjudicated. Such parole shall terminate immediately upon
the denial of such adjustment application.
“(L) Not later than 90 days after the last day of each
fiscal year, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall sub-
mit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and
the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Rep-
resentatives and make available to the public, a report—
“(i) identifying the total number of aliens pa-
roled into the United States under this paragraph
during the previous fiscal year; and
“(ii) containing information and data regarding
all aliens paroled during such fiscal year, includ-
ing—
“(I) the duration of parole;
“(II) the type of parole; and
“(III) the current status of the aliens so
paroled.”.
SEC. 702. IMPLEMENTATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), this title and the amendments made by this title shall take effect on the date that is 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), each of the following exceptions apply:

(1) Any application for parole or advance parole filed by an alien before the date of the enactment of this Act shall be adjudicated under the law that was in effect on the date on which the application was properly filed and any approved advance parole shall remain valid under the law that was in effect on the date on which the advance parole was approved.

(2) Section 212(d)(5)(J) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by section 701 of this title, shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) Aliens who were paroled into the United States pursuant to section 212(d)(5)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5)(A)) before January 1, 2023, shall continue to be subject to the terms of parole that were in effect on the date on which their respective parole was approved.
SEC. 703. CAUSE OF ACTION.

Any person, State, or local government that experiences financial harm in excess of $1,000 due to a failure of the Federal Government to lawfully apply the provisions of this title or the amendments made by this title shall have standing to bring a civil action against the Federal Government in an appropriate district court of the United States for appropriate relief.

SEC. 704. SEVERABILITY.

If any provision of this title or any amendment by this title, or the application of such provision or amendment to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this title and the application of such provision or amendment to any other person or circumstance shall not be affected.

DIVISION E—ESTABLISHMENT OF FISCAL COMMISSION

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Division may be cited as the “Fiscal Commission Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CO-CHAIR.—The term “co-chair” means an individual appointed to serve as a co-chair of the Fiscal Commission under section 3(a)(3)(C)(i).
(2) **Fiscal Commission.**—The term “Fiscal Commission” means the commission established under section 3(a).

(3) **Fiscal Commission bill.**—The term “Fiscal Commission bill” means a bill consisting solely of legislative language that the Fiscal Commission approves and submits under clauses (i) and (v), respectively, of section 3(a)(2)(B).

(4) **Outside expert.**—The term “outside expert” is an individual who is not an elected official or an officer or employee of the Federal Government or of any State.

**SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF FISCAL COMMISSION.**

(a) **Establishment of Fiscal Commission.**—

(1) **Establishment.**—No later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, there is established in Congress a Fiscal Commission.

(2) **Duties.**—

(A) **Improve Fiscal Situation.**—

(i) **In General.**—The Fiscal Commission shall identify policies to improve the fiscal situation in the medium term and to achieve a sustainable debt-to-GDP ratio of the long term, and for any recommendations related to Federal programs...
for which a Federal trust fund exists, to
improve solvency for a period of at least 75
years.

(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out
clause (i), the Fiscal Commission shall—

(I) propose recommendations de-
signed to balance the budget at the
earliest reasonable date, including at
minimum stabilizing the debt-to-GDP
ratio at or below one hundred percent
by the end of the 10-year period be-
ginning on the date the Fiscal Com-
mission is established; and

(II) propose recommendations
that meaningfully improve the long-
term fiscal outlook, including changes
to address the growth of direct spend-
ing and the gap between the projected
revenues and expenditures of the Fed-
eral Government.

(iii) RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMIT-
TEES.—Not later than 60 days after the
date described in paragraph (1), each com-
mittee of the Senate and the House of
Representatives may transmit to the Fiscal
Commission any recommendations of the committee relating to changes in law to further the duties described in clause (ii).

(B) Report, Recommendations, and Legislative Language.—

(i) In General.—Notwithstanding paragraph (4)(D)(ii)(II), not earlier than November 6, 2024, but not later than November 15, 2024, the Fiscal Commission shall meet to consider, and vote on—

(I) a report that contains a detailed statement of the findings, conclusions, and recommendations of the Fiscal Commission described in subparagraph (A)(i) and the estimate of the Congressional Budget Office required under paragraph (4)(D)(ii); and

(II) legislative language to carry out the recommendations of the Fiscal Commission in the report described in subclause (I), which shall include a statement of the economic and budgetary effects of the recommendations.
(ii) APPROVAL OF REPORT AND LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE.—A report and legislative language of the Fiscal Commission under clause (i) shall require the approval of a majority of the members of the Fiscal Commission, provided that such majority shall be required to include not less than 3 members of the Fiscal Commission appointed by members of the Republican Party and 3 members appointed by members of the Democratic party.

(iii) ADDITIONAL VIEWS.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Fiscal Commission who gives notice of an intention to file supplemental, minority, or additional views at the time of the final Fiscal Commission vote on the approval of the report and legislative language of the Fiscal Commission under clause (i) shall be entitled to 3 days to file those views in writing with the staff director of the Fiscal Commission.

(II) INCLUSION IN REPORT.—

Views filed under subclause (I) shall
be included in the report of the Fiscal Commission under clause (i) and printed in the same volume, or part thereof, and such inclusion shall be noted on the cover of the report, except that, in the absence of timely notice, the report may be printed and transmitted immediately without such views.

(iv) Report and Legislative Language to be Made Public.—Upon the approval or disapproval of a report and legislative language under clause (i) by the Fiscal Commission, the Fiscal Commission shall promptly, and not more than 24 hours after the approval or disapproval or, if timely notice is given under clause (iii), not more than 24 hours after additional views are filed under such clause, make the report, the legislative language, and a record of the vote on the report and legislative language available to the public.

(v) Submission of Report and Legislative Language.—If a report and legislative language are approved by the Fis-
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cal Commission under clause (i), not later
than 3 days after the date on which the re-
port and legislative language are made
available to the public under clause (iv),
the Fiscal Commission shall submit the re-
port and legislative language to the Presi-
dent, the Vice President, the Speaker of
the House of Representatives, and the ma-
majority and minority leaders of each House
of Congress.

(3) MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Fiscal Commission
shall be composed of 16 members appointed in
accordance with subparagraph (B) and with
due consideration to chairs and ranking mem-
ers of the committees and subcommittees of
subject matter jurisdiction, if applicable.

(B) APPOINTMENT.—Not later than 14
days after the date described in paragraph
(1)—

(i) the majority leader of the Senate
shall appoint 3 individuals from among the
Members of the Senate, and 1 outside ex-
pert, who shall serve as members of the
Fiscal Commission;
(ii) the minority leader of the Senate shall appoint 3 individuals from among the Members of the Senate, and 1 outside expert who shall serve as members of the Fiscal Commission;

(iii) the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall appoint 3 individuals from among the Members of the House of Representatives, and 1 outside expert, who shall serve as members of the Fiscal Commission; and

(iv) the minority leader of the House of Representatives shall appoint 3 individuals from among the Members of the House of Representatives, and 1 outside expert, who shall serve as members of the Fiscal Commission.

(C) CO-CHAIRS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 14 days after the date described in paragraph (1), with respect to the Fiscal Commission—

(I) the leadership of the Senate and House of Representatives of the same political party as the President
shall appoint 1 individual from among the members of the Fiscal Commission who shall serve as a co-chair of the Fiscal Commission; and

(II) the leadership of the Senate and House of Representatives of the opposite political party as the President, shall appoint 1 individual from among the members of the Fiscal Commission who shall serve as a co-chair of the Fiscal Commission.

(ii) STAFF DIRECTOR.—With respect to the Fiscal Commission, the co-chairs of the Fiscal Commission, acting jointly, shall hire the staff director of the Fiscal Commission.

(D) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The members of the Fiscal Commission shall be appointed for the life of the Fiscal Commission.

(ii) VACANCY.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—Any vacancy in the Fiscal Commission shall not affect the powers of the Fiscal Commission, but shall be filled not later than
14 days after the date on which the vacancy occurs, in the same manner as the original appointment was made.

(II) INELIGIBLE MEMBERS.—If a member of the Fiscal Commission who was appointed as a Member of the Senate or the House Representatives ceases to be a Member of the Senate or the House of Representatives, as applicable—

(aa) the member shall no longer be a member of the Fiscal Commission; and

(bb) a vacancy in the Fiscal Commission exists.

(4) ADMINISTRATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to the Fiscal Commission, to enable the Fiscal Commission to exercise the powers, functions, and duties of the Fiscal Commission, there are authorized to be disbursed by the Senate the actual and necessary expenses of the Fiscal Commission approved by the co-chairs of the Fiscal
175 Commission, subject to the rules and regulations of the Senate.

(B) EXPENSES.—With respect to the Fiscal Commission, in carrying out the functions of the Fiscal Commission, the Fiscal Commission is authorized to incur expenses in the same manner and under the same conditions as the Joint Economic Committee is authorized under section 11(d) of the Employment Act of 1946 (15 U.S.C. 1024(d)).

(C) QUORUM.—With respect to the Fiscal Commission, 9 members of the Fiscal Commission shall constitute a quorum for purposes of voting, meeting, and holding hearings.

(D) VOTING.—

(i) PROXY VOTING.—No proxy voting shall be allowed on behalf of any member of the Fiscal Commission.

(ii) CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ESTIMATES.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Congressional Budget Office shall, with respect to the legislative language of the Fiscal Commission
under paragraph (2)(B)(i)(II), provide
to the Fiscal Commission—

(aa) estimates of the legislative language in accordance with
sections 308(a) and 201(f) of the
Congressional Budget Act of
1974 (2 U.S.C. 639(a) and
601(f)); and

(bb) information on the
budgetary effect of the legislative
language on the long-term fiscal
outlook.

(II) LIMITATION.—The Fiscal
Commission may not vote on any
version of the report, recommenda-
tions, or legislative language of the
Fiscal Commission under paragraph
(2)(B)(i) unless the estimates and in-
formation described in subclause (I)
of this clause are made available for
consideration by all members of the
Fiscal Commission not later than 48
hours before that vote, as certified by
the co-chairs of the Fiscal Commis-

(E) MEETINGS.—

(i) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 45 days after the date described in paragraph (1), the Fiscal Commission shall hold the first meeting of the Fiscal Commission.

(ii) AGENDA.—For each meeting of the Fiscal Commission, the co-chairs of the Fiscal Commission shall provide an agenda to the members of the Fiscal Commission not later than 48 hours before the meeting.

(F) HEARINGS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Fiscal Commission may, for the purpose of carrying out this section, hold such hearings, sit and act at such times and places, require attendance of witnesses and production of books, papers, and documents, take such testimony, receive such evidence, and administer such oaths as the Fiscal Commission considers advisable.

(ii) HEARING PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CO-CHAIRS.—

(I) ANNOUNCEMENT.—The co-chairs of the Fiscal Commission shall
make a public announcement of the
date, place, time, and subject matter
of any hearing to be conducted under
this subparagraph not later than 7
days before the date of the hearing,
unless the co-chairs determine that
there is good cause to begin such
hearing on an earlier date.

(II) Written statement.—A
witness appearing before the Fiscal
Commission shall file a written state-
ment of the proposed testimony of the
witness not later than 2 days before
the date of the appearance of the wit-
ness, unless the co-chairs of the Fiscal
Commission—

(aa) determine that there is
good cause for the witness to not
file the written statement; and

(bb) waive the requirement
that the witness file the written
statement.

(G) Technical assistance.—Upon writ-
ten request of the co-chairs of the Fiscal Com-
mission, the head of a Federal agency shall pro-
vide technical assistance to the Fiscal Commission in order for the Fiscal Commission to carry out the duties of the Fiscal Commission.

(H) Outside Expert.—Any outside expert appointed to the Fiscal Commission—

(i) shall not be considered to be a Federal employee for any purpose by reason of service on the Fiscal Commission; and

(ii) shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Commission.

(b) Staff of Fiscal Commission.—

(1) In General.—The co-chairs of the Fiscal Commission may jointly appoint and fix the compensation of staff of the Fiscal Commission as the co-chairs determine necessary, in accordance with the guidelines, rules, and requirements relating to employees of the Senate.

(2) Ethical Standards.—
(A) Senate.—Members appointed by Members of the Senate who serve on the Fiscal Commission and staff of the Fiscal Commission shall adhere to the ethics rules of the Senate.

(B) House of Representatives.—Members appointed by Members of the House of Representatives who serve on the Fiscal Commission shall be governed by the ethics rules and requirements of the House of Representatives.

c) Termination.—The Fiscal Commission shall terminate on the date that is 30 days after the date the Fiscal Commission submits the report under subsection (a)(2)(B)(v).

SEC. 4. EXPEDITED CONSIDERATION OF FISCAL COMMISSION BILLS.

(a) Qualifying Legislation.—Only a Fiscal Commission bill shall be entitled to expedited consideration under this section.

(b) Consideration in the House of Representatives.—

(1) Introduction.—If the Fiscal Commission approves and submits legislative language under clauses (i) and (v), respectively, of section 3(a)(2)(B), the Fiscal Commission bill consisting
solely of that legislative language shall be introduced
in the House of Representatives (by request)—

(A) by the majority leader of the House of
Representatives, or by a Member of the House
of Representatives designated by the majority
leader of the House of Representatives, on the
third legislative day after the date the Fiscal
Commission approves and submits such legisla-
tive language; or

(B) if the Fiscal Commission bill is not in-
troduced under subparagraph (A), by any Mem-
er of the House of Representatives on any leg-
islative day beginning on the legislative day
after the legislative day described in subpara-
graph (A).

(2) REFERRAL AND REPORTING.—Any com-
mittee of the House of Representatives to which a
Fiscal Commission bill is referred shall report the
Fiscal Commission bill to the House of Representa-
tives without amendment not later than 5 legislative
days after the date on which the Fiscal Commission
bill was so referred. If any committee of the House
of Representatives to which a Fiscal Commission bill
is referred fails to report the Fiscal Commission bill
within that period, that committee shall be auto-
matically discharged from consideration of the Fiscal Commission bill, and the Fiscal Commission bill shall be placed on the appropriate calendar.

(3) PROCEEDING TO CONSIDERATION.—After the last committee authorized to consider a Fiscal Commission bill reports it to the House of Representatives or has been discharged from its consideration, it shall be in order to move to proceed to consider the Fiscal Commission bill in the House of Representatives. Such a motion shall not be in order after the House of Representatives has disposed of a motion to proceed with respect to the Fiscal Commission bill. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion.

(4) CONSIDERATION.—The Fiscal Commission bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against the Fiscal Commission bill and against its consideration are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its passage without intervening motion except 2 hours of debate equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent.

(5) VOTE ON PASSAGE.—The vote on passage of the Fiscal Commission bill shall occur pursuant to
the constraints under clause 8 of rule XX of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(c) EXPEDITED PROCEDURE IN THE SENATE.—

(1) INTRODUCTION IN THE SENATE.—If the Fiscal Commission approves and submits legislative language under clauses (i) and (v), respectively, of section 3(a)(2)(B), a Fiscal Commission bill consisting solely of that legislative language may be introduced in the Senate (by request)—

(A) by the majority leader of the Senate, or by a Member of the Senate designated by the majority leader of the Senate, on the next day on which the Senate is in session; or

(B) if the Fiscal Commission bill is not introduced under subparagraph (A), by any Member of the Senate on any day on which the Senate is in session beginning on the day after the day described in subparagraph (A).

(2) COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION.—A Fiscal Commission bill introduced in the Senate under paragraph (1) shall be jointly referred to the committee or committees of jurisdiction, which committees shall report the Fiscal Commission bill without any revision and with a favorable recommendation, an unfavorable recommendation, or without rec-
ommendation, not later than 5 session days after the
date on which the Fiscal Commission bill was so re-
ferred. If any committee to which a Fiscal Commiss-
ion bill is referred fails to report the Fiscal Com-
mission bill within that period, that committee shall
be automatically discharged from consideration of
the Fiscal Commission bill, and the Fiscal Commiss-
ion bill shall be placed on the appropriate calendar.

(3) PROCEEDING.—Notwithstanding rule XXII
of the Standing Rules of the Senate, it is in order,
not later than 2 days of session after the date on
which a Fiscal Commission bill is reported or dis-
charged from all committees to which the Fiscal
Commission bill was referred, for the majority leader
of the Senate or the designee of the majority leader
to move to proceed to the consideration of the Fiscal
Commission bill. It shall also be in order for any
Member of the Senate to move to proceed to the
consideration of the Fiscal Commission bill at any
time after the conclusion of such 2-day period. A
motion to proceed is in order even though a previous
motion to the same effect has been disagreed to. All
points of order against the motion to proceed to the
Fiscal Commission bill are waived. The motion to
proceed is not debatable. The motion is not subject
to a motion to postpone. A motion to reconsider the vote by which the motion is agreed to or disagreed to shall not be in order. If a motion to proceed to the consideration of the Fiscal Commission bill is agreed to, the Fiscal Commission bill shall remain the unfinished business until disposed of. All points of order against a Fiscal Commission bill and against consideration of the Fiscal Commission bill are waived.

(4) No Amendments.—An amendment to a Fiscal Commission bill, or a motion to postpone, or a motion to proceed to the consideration of other business, or a motion to recommit the Fiscal Commission bill, is not in order.

(5) Rulings of the Chair on Procedure.— Appeals from the decisions of the Chair relating to the application of the rules of the Senate, as the case may be, to the procedure relating to a Fiscal Commission bill shall be decided without debate.

(d) Amendment.—A Fiscal Commission bill shall not be subject to amendment in either the Senate or the House of Representatives.

(e) Consideration by the Other House.—

(1) In General.—If, before passing a Fiscal Commission bill, a House receives from the other
House a Fiscal Commission bill consisting of legislative language approved by the same Fiscal Commission as the Fiscal Commission bill in the receiving House—

(A) the Fiscal Commission bill of the other House shall not be referred to a committee; and

(B) the procedure in the receiving House shall be the same as if no Fiscal Commission bill had been received from the other House until the vote on passage, when the Fiscal Commission bill received from the other House shall supplant the Fiscal Commission bill of the receiving House.

(2) Revenue Measures.—This subsection shall not apply to the House of Representatives if a Fiscal Commission bill received from the Senate is a revenue measure.

(f) Rules to Coordinate Action With Other House.—

(1) Treatment of Fiscal Commission Bill of Other House.—If a Fiscal Commission bill is not introduced in the Senate or the Senate fails to consider a Fiscal Commission bill under this section, the Fiscal Commission bill of the House of Representatives consisting of legislative language ap-
proved by the same Fiscal Commission as the Fiscal Commission bill in the Senate shall be entitled to expedited floor procedures under this section.

(2) Treatment of Companion Measures in the Senate.—If, following passage of a Fiscal Commission bill in the Senate, the Senate then receives from the House of Representatives a Fiscal Commission bill approved by the same Fiscal Commission and consisting of the same legislative language as the Senate-passed Fiscal Commission bill, the House-passed Fiscal Commission bill shall not be debatable. The vote on passage of the Fiscal Commission bill in the Senate shall be considered to be the vote on passage of the Fiscal Commission bill received from the House of Representatives.

(3) Vetoes.—If the President vetoes a Fiscal Commission bill, consideration of a veto message in the Senate under this paragraph shall be 10 hours equally divided between the majority and minority leaders of the Senate or the designees of the majority and minority leaders of the Senate.

SEC. 5. FUNDING.

Funding for the Fiscal Commission shall be derived in equal portions from—
(1) the contingent fund of the Senate from the appropriations account “Miscellaneous Items”, subject to the rules and regulations of the Senate; and

(2) the applicable accounts of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 6. RULEMAKING.

The provisions of this Act are enacted by Congress—

(1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of the Senate and the House of Representatives, respectively, and, as such, the provisions—

(A) shall be considered as part of the rules of each House, respectively, or of that House to which they specifically apply; and

(B) shall supersede other rules only to the extent that they are inconsistent therewith; and

(2) with full recognition of the constitutional right of either House to change such rules (so far as relating to such House) at any time, in the same manner, and to the same extent as in the case of any other rule of such House.