



Border Security for America Act

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TITLE I – BORDER SECURITY

SEC. 101. Definitions

Subtitle A – Infrastructure and Equipment

- SEC. 111. Strengthening the Requirements for Barriers Along the Border** – Adds a definition of “situational awareness” to the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996. Mandates that SecDHS deploy tactical infrastructure, to include wall and technology, where it is most effective and practical to achieve situational awareness and operational control of the border.
- SEC. 112. Air and Marine Operations Flight Hours** – Requires DHS to increase the number of annual flight hours of CBP’s Air and Marine Operations and for Executive Assistant Commissioner for Air and Marine Operations to prioritize requests for support from the Chief of the Border Patrol.
- SEC. 113. Capability Deployment to Specific Sectors and Regions** – Requires DHS to deploy additional infrastructure, surveillance and detection technologies in specific sectors along the Northern and Southern Border (e.g. El Centro, Big Bend, and Laredo).
- SEC. 114. Border Patrol Physical Infrastructure Improvements** – Requires DHS to construct and upgrade existing physical infrastructure and to acquire additional facilities.
- SEC. 115. Border Patrol Activities** – Requires the U.S. Border Patrol to patrol as close to the border as possible.
- SEC. 116. Border Security Technology Program Management** – Requires DHS to document approved baselines, costs, schedule, performance thresholds, and compliance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation Guidelines for its major border security technology acquisition programs that have life-cycle costs of \$300 million or more. Also directs DHS to submit a testing and evaluation plan and use independent verification for new border security technologies.
- SEC. 117. National Guard Support to Secure the Southern Border and Reimbursement of States for Deployment of the National Guard at the Southern Border** – Authorizes Governors of southern-border states to deploy units of the National Guard to assist CBP in securing the border. Also directs DoD to reimburse Southern-Border states for the costs of deployment of units/personnel to assist with border security activities. Authorizes up to \$35 million for such reimbursements.
- SEC. 118. Operation Phalanx** – Reauthorizes DoD to deploy regular and reserve groups of the Armed Forces to support CBP in securing the border. Authorizes up to \$75 million this program.
- SEC. 119. Merida Initiative** – Reauthorizes the Merida Initiative through FY 2020 and requires DHS



to evaluate and report on the effectiveness of the initiative within 120 days of the date of enactment of this Act. Also requires DHS to make recommendations on how to enhance law enforcement efforts with Mexico and submit a report to Congress within 120 days of the date of enactment.

- SEC. 120. Prohibitions on Actions That Impede Border Security on Certain Federal Land** – Prohibits the Departments of the Interior or Agriculture (USDA) from impeding, prohibiting, or restricting CBP activities on federal land located within 100 miles of the Southern Border to execute search and rescue operations, and to prevent all unlawful entries into the United States.
- SEC. 121. Landowner and Rancher Security Enhancements – Border Security Advisory Committee** – Establishes a national border security advisory Committee to consult with the Secretary on border security issues.
- SEC. 122. Eradication of Carrizo Cane and Salt Cedar** – Directs DHS to coordinate with Federal and State authorities and, within 90 days, begin eradicating Carrizo cane and Salt Cedar along the Rio Grande River.
- SEC. 123. Southern Border Threat Analysis** – Requires the Secretary of DHS to develop a Southern Border Threat Analysis that assesses the current state of border security and improvements needed to secure the border.
- SEC. 124. Amendments to U.S. Customs and Border Protection** – Makes a series of technical and conforming edits to CBP and preclearance authorizations.
- SEC. 125. Agent and Officer Technology Use** – Requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to ensure that technology deployed be provided to front-line agents and officers
- SEC. 126. Intergrated Border Enforcement Teams** – Establishes the Integrated Border Enforcement Team (IBET) program that is designed to detect, prevent, investigate, and respond to terrorism and violations of law related to border security principally on the northern border.
- SEC. 127. Tunnel Task Forces** – This amendment establishes the Tunnel Task Force program which leads the Departments efforts at investigating and remediating the threat posed by cross-border tunnels.

Subtitle B – Personnel

Part I – Increases in Immigration and Law Enforcement Personnel

- SEC. 131. Additional U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agents and Officers** – Directs DHS to hire, train, and assign 26,370 Border Patrol agents (increase of 5,000), and 27,725 Customs Officers (increase of 5,000)



- SEC. 132. U.S. Customs and Border Protection Retention Incentives** – Authorizes recruitment and retention bonuses, special pay for new CBP officers assigned to the remote and hard-to-fill locations.
- SEC. 133. Anti-Border Corruption Reauthorization Act of 2017** – Provides three, narrowly tailored exemptions for the Commissioner of CBP to waive the polygraph for current state and local law enforcement officers who have already passed a polygraph examination, Federal law enforcement officers who have already passed a stringent background investigation and veterans with at least three consecutive years in the military who have held a clearance and passed a background check.
- SEC. 134. Training For Officers and Agents Of U.S. Customs And Border Protection** – Requires agents and officers to undergo 21 weeks of mandatory training and provides for additional training for first and second line supervisors.

Subtitle C—Grants

- SEC. 141. Operation Stonegarden** – Authorizes \$110 million to increase coordination and collaboration between CBP and State, county, tribal, and other governmental law enforcement entities that support border security operations.

Subtitle D — Authorization of Appropriations

- SEC. 151. Authorization of Appropriations** – Authorizes \$10 billion (over 4 years) to cover costs for implementation of the Act.

TITLE II – EMERGENCY PORT OF ENTRY PERSONNEL AND INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING

- SEC. 201. Ports of Entry Infrastructure** – Requires DHS to expand vehicle, cargo, and pedestrian inspection lanes at ports of entry on the Southern Border by additional primary and secondary inspection lanes.
- SEC. 202. Secure Communications** – Requires DHS to provide all CBP officers with secure communications equipment to streamline communications. Also requires DHS to provide multi-band, encrypted high-frequency portable radios to agents or officers required to patrol on foot, by horseback, and with a canine unit, and in other remote mission critical locations.
- SEC. 203. Border Security Capability Deployment Program** – Funds and expands the border surveillance and intrusion technology program at the nation’s ports of entry.
- SEC. 204. Pilot and Upgrade of License Plate Readers at Ports of Entry** – Requires to upgrade existing license plate readers used on the Northern and Southern borders on incoming and outgoing vehicle lanes. Also authorizes CBP to conduct a 6-month pilot on the Southern border using license plate readers in all cargo processing lanes to determine their effectiveness in reducing cross-border wait times for commercial traffic and tractor-trailers.



- SEC. 205. Non-Intrusive Inspection Operational Demonstration** – Requires the deployment of a high throughput non-intrusive passenger vehicle inspection system at not fewer than three land ports of entry along the southern border.
- SEC. 206. Biometric Exit Data System** – Directs DHS to complete and implement biometric exit at all air, land and sea ports of entry.
- SEC. 207. Sense of Congress on Cooperation Between Agencies** – Expresses the sense of Congress that the lack of certified inspection personnel at ports of entry should be addressed by seeking cooperation between agencies through a memorandum of understanding or certification process, and that agents are authorized for additional hours to facilitate the crossing and trade of perishable goods.
- SEC. 208. Authorization of Appropriations** – Authorizes \$5 billion (over 4 years) to carry out staffing increases and infrastructure improvements.