

**Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, HR. 2281, with An Amendment**

**(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)**

115<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 2281

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to reauthorize the Border Enforcement Security Task Force program within the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 2, 2017

Mr. VELA (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. McSALLY, Mr. CORREA, and Ms. BARRAGÁN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

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## A BILL

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to reauthorize the Border Enforcement Security Task Force program within the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Border Enforcement  
5 Security Task Force Reauthorization Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. MODIFIED INSTRUCTIONS.**

2 (a) UPDATED CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE ESTAB-  
3 LISHMENT OF UNITS.—Paragraph (2) of section 432(c)  
4 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 240(e))  
5 is amended—

6 (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),  
7 by striking “the Secretary shall consider” and in-  
8 serting “the Secretary shall apply risk-based criteria  
9 that takes into consideration”; and

10 (2) in subparagraph (A), by inserting before the  
11 semicolon the following: “, including threats posed  
12 by transnational criminal organizations”;

13 (3) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and”  
14 after the semicolon;

15 (4) in subparagraph (D), by striking the period  
16 at the end and inserting “; and”; and

17 (5) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
18 paragraphs:

19 “(E) the extent to which the BEST unit  
20 would advance the Department’s homeland and  
21 border security strategic priorities and related  
22 objectives; and

23 “(F) whether departmental Joint Task  
24 Force operations as established pursuant to sec-  
25 tion 708 and other joint cross-border initiatives

1           would be enhanced, improved, or otherwise as-  
2           sisted by the BEST unit to be established.”.

3           (b) PORT SECURITY.—Subsection (c) of section 432  
4 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 240) is  
5 amended by adding at the end the following new para-  
6 graph:

7           “(4) PORT SECURITY BEST UNITS.—A BEST  
8 unit established pursuant to paragraph (2) with a  
9 port security nexus shall be composed of at least one  
10 member of each of the following:

11                   “(A) The Coast Guard Investigative Serv-  
12                   ice.

13                   “(B) The geographically-responsible Coast  
14                   Guard Sector Intelligence Office.”.

15           (c) UPDATED REPORT ELEMENTS.—Subsection (e)  
16 of section 432 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6  
17 U.S.C. 240) is amended to read as follows:

18           “(e) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the  
19 date of the enactment of this section and annually there-  
20 after for the following five years, the Secretary shall sub-  
21 mit to Congress a report that includes the following:

22                   “(1) A description of the effectiveness of BEST  
23 in enhancing border security, disrupting and dis-  
24 mantling transnational criminal organizations, and  
25 reducing drug trafficking, arms smuggling, illegal

1 alien trafficking and smuggling, violence, and kid-  
2 napping along and across the international borders  
3 of the United States, as measured by crime statis-  
4 tics, including violent deaths, incidents of violence,  
5 and drug-related arrests.

6 “(2) An assessment of how BEST enhances in-  
7 formation-sharing, including the dissemination of  
8 homeland security information, among Federal,  
9 State, local, tribal, and foreign law enforcement  
10 agencies.

11 “(3) A description of how BEST advances the  
12 Department’s homeland and border security stra-  
13 tegic priorities and effectiveness of BEST in achiev-  
14 ing related objectives.

15 “(4) An assessment of BEST’s joint operational  
16 efforts with departmental Joint Task Force oper-  
17 ations established pursuant to section 708 and other  
18 joint cross-border initiatives.”.