

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6742

[Report No. 115-]

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to ensure that appropriate officers and agents of U.S. Customs and Border Protection are equipped with secure radios or other two-way communication devices, supported by system interoperability, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 7, 2018

Mr. MAST (for himself and Mr. McCAUL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

SEPTEMBER --, 2018

Reported from the Committee on Homeland Security

A BILL

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to ensure that appropriate officers and agents of U.S. Customs and Border Protection are equipped with secure radios or other two-way communication devices, supported by system interoperability, 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 “Secure Border Com-
5 munications Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. SECURE BORDER COMMUNICATIONS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle B of title IV of the
8 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 211 et seq.)
9 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

10 **“SEC. 420. SECURE BORDER COMMUNICATIONS.**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure that
12 each U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer or agent,
13 if appropriate, is equipped with a secure radio or other
14 two-way communication device, supported by system inter-
15 operability, that allows each such officer or agent to com-
16 municate—

17 “(1) between ports of entry and inspection sta-
18 tions; and

19 “(2) with other Federal, State, Tribal, and local
20 law enforcement entities.

21 “(b) U.S. BORDER PATROL AGENTS.—The Secretary
22 shall ensure that each U.S. Border Patrol agent assigned
23 or required to patrol in remote mission critical locations,
24 and at border checkpoints, has a multi- or dual-band
25 encrypted portable radio.

1 “(c) COMMERCIAL MOBILE BROADBAND
2 CONNECTIVITY.—In carrying out subsection (b), the Sec-
3 retary shall acquire radios or other devices with the option
4 to connect to appropriate commercial mobile broadband
5 networks for deployment in areas where such networks en-
6 hance operations and are cost effective.

7 “(d) EMERGING COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES
8 CONSIDERED.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary
9 may evaluate new or emerging communications tech-
10 nologies to determine their suitability for the unique condi-
11 tions of border security operations.”.

12 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
13 in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is
14 amended by inserting after the item relating to section
15 419 the following new item:

“Sec. 420. Secure border communications.”.