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(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2281

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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

Mr. VELA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee  
on \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

10           “(1) A description of the effectiveness of BEST  
11 in enhancing border security, disrupting and dis-  
12 mantling transnational criminal organizations, and  
13 reducing drug trafficking, arms smuggling, illegal  
14 alien trafficking and smuggling, violence, and kid-  
15 napping along and across the international borders  
16 of the United States, as measured by crime statis-  
17 tics, including violent deaths, incidents of violence,  
18 and drug-related arrests.

19           “(2) An assessment of how BEST enhances in-  
20 formation-sharing, including the dissemination of  
21 homeland security information, among Federal,  
22 State, local, tribal, and foreign law enforcement  
23 agencies.

24           “(3) A description of how BEST advances the  
25 Department’s homeland and border security stra-

1        tegic priorities and effectiveness of BEST in achiev-  
2        ing related objectives.

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