To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize a Joint Task Force to enhance integration of the Department of Homeland Security’s border security operations to detect, interdict, disrupt, and prevent narcotics, such as fentanyl and other synthetic opioids, from entering the United States, and for other purposes.
A BILL

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize a Joint Task Force to enhance integration of the Department of Homeland Security’s border security operations to detect, interdict, disrupt, and prevent narcotics, such as fentanyl and other synthetic opioids, from entering the United States, and for other purposes.
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Joint Task Force to
Combat Opioid Trafficking Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF JOINT TASK FORCE TO
COUNTER OPIOIDS.

Subsection (b) of section 708 of the Homeland Secu-
rity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 348) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(A), by adding at the end
the following new clause:

“(iv) Enhancing the integration of the
Department’s border security operations to
detect, interdict, disrupt, and prevent nar-
cotics, such as fentanyl and other synthetic
opioids, from entering the United States.”;

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (9) through
(13) as paragraphs (11) through (15), respectively;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (8) the fol-
lowing new paragraphs:

“(9) ENGAGEMENT WITH THE PRIVATE SEC-
TOR.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director of a
Joint Task Force may engage with representa-
tives from a private sector organization for the purpose of carrying out the mission of such Joint Task Force, and any such engagement shall not be subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

“(B) ASSISTANCE FROM PRIVATE SECTOR.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection (b)(1), the Secretary, with the agreement of a private sector organization, may arrange for the temporary assignment of an employee of such organization to a Joint Task Force in accordance with this paragraph.

“(ii) AGREEMENT.—The Secretary shall provide for a written agreement between the Department, the private sector organization concerned, and the employee concerned regarding the terms and conditions of the assignment of such employee under this paragraph.

“(C) NO FINANCIAL LIABILITY.—Any agreement under this paragraph shall require the private sector organization concerned to be
responsible for all costs associated with the assignment of an employee under this paragraph.

“(D) DURATION.—An assignment under this paragraph may, at any time and for any reason, be terminated by the Secretary or the private sector organization concerned and shall be for a total period of not more than two years.

“(10) COLLABORATION WITH TASK FORCES outside DHS.—The Secretary may enter into a memorandum of understanding by which a Joint Task Force established under this section to carry out any purpose specified in paragraph (2)(A) and any other Federal, State, local, Tribal, territorial, or international entity or task force established for a similar purpose may collaborate for the purpose of carrying out the mission of such Joint Task Force.”

SEC. 3. NOTIFICATION; REPORTING.

(a) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall—

(1) make a determination regarding whether to establish a Joint Task Force under section 708 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to carry out the purpose specified in clause (iv) of subsection
(b)(2)(A) of such section, as added by section 2 of this Act; and

(2) submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate written notification of such determination, including, if such determination is in the negative, information on the basis for such negative determination.

(b) REPORTING.—If the Secretary of Homeland Security establishes a Joint Task Force under section 708 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to carry out the purpose specified in clause (iv) of subsection (b)(2)(A) of such section, as added by section 2 of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(1) beginning with the first report required under subsection (b)(6)(F) of such section 708, include with respect to such a Joint Task Force—

(A) a gap analysis of funding, personnel, technology, or other resources needed in order to detect, interdict, disrupt, and prevent narcotics, such as fentanyl and other synthetic opioids, from entering the United States; and

(B) a description of collaboration pursuant to subsection (b)(10) of such section (as added
by section 2 of this Act) between such a Joint
Task Force and any other Federal, State, local,
Tribal, territorial, or international task force,
including the United States Postal Service and
the United States Postal Inspection Service;
and
(2) in each review required under subsection
(b)(11)(C) of section 708 of the Homeland Security
Act of 2002, as redesignated by section 2 of this
Act, an assessment of the activities of such a Joint
Task Force, including an evaluation of whether such
Joint Task Force has enhanced integration of the
Department’s efforts, created any unique capabili-
ities, or otherwise enhanced operational effectiveness,
coordination, or information sharing to detect, inter-
dict, disrupt, and prevent narcotics, such as fentanyl
and other synthetic opioids, from entering the
United States.