

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6795

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to ensure access to appropriate temporary shelter, food, and water for individuals apprehended by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 18, 2022

Ms. SLOTKIN (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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

A BILL

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to ensure access to appropriate temporary shelter, food, and water for individuals apprehended by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, 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 “Short-Term Detention
5 Standards Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE TEMPORARY SHELTER,**
2 **FOOD, AND WATER DURING SHORT-TERM DE-**
3 **TENTION.**

4 Paragraph (1) of section 411(m) of the Homeland
5 Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 211(m)) is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 “(1) ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE TEMPORARY
8 SHELTER, FOOD, AND WATER.—The Commissioner
9 shall make every effort to ensure the provision to an
10 individual apprehended by U.S. Customs and Border
11 Protection of appropriate temporary shelter with ac-
12 cess to bathroom and shower facilities, water, appro-
13 priate nutrition, hygiene, personal grooming items,
14 and sanitation needs.”.

15 **SEC. 3. AUDIT AND INSPECTIONS OF DETENTION FACILI-**
16 **TIES.**

17 (a) OIG AND GAO.—The Inspector General of the
18 Department of Homeland Security and the Comptroller
19 General shall carry out regular audits and inspections, in-
20 cluding unannounced audits and inspections, of processes
21 (including recordkeeping) utilized by U.S. Customs and
22 Border Protection to conduct intake and process individ-
23 uals apprehended by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.
24 The Inspector General and Comptroller General shall, to
25 the extent possible, share information and coordinate to

1 ensure that Congress is provided timely audit and inspec-
2 tion information.

3 (b) CONGRESSIONAL ACCESS.—The Commissioner of
4 U.S. Customs and Border Protection may not—

5 (1) prevent a Member of Congress or an em-
6 ployee of the United States House of Representa-
7 tives or the United States Senate designated by such
8 a Member for the purposes of this section from en-
9 tering, for the purpose of conducting oversight, any
10 such facility; and

11 (2) make any temporary modification at any
12 such facility that in any way alters what is observed
13 by a visiting Member of Congress or such designated
14 employee, compared to what would be observed in
15 the absence of such modification.

16 (c) PHOTOGRAPHS.—The Inspector General of the
17 Department of Homeland Security, Comptroller General,
18 a Member of Congress, or an employee of the United
19 States House of Representatives or United States Senate
20 shall be authorized to take photographs or video or audio
21 recordings of conditions in a facility but may not publish
22 photographs or video or audio recordings with personally
23 identifiable information without permission.

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