

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6794

To require the Department of Homeland Security to develop a comprehensive plan to identify, deploy, and integrate emerging technologies to achieve greater situational awareness along the northern and southern borders of the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 18, 2022

Ms. SLOTKIN (for herself, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Ms. STEFANIK, and Mr. TAYLOR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

A BILL

To require the Department of Homeland Security to develop a comprehensive plan to identify, deploy, and integrate emerging technologies to achieve greater situational awareness along the northern and southern borders of the United States.

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 “Integrating New Tech-
5 nologies to Empower Law Enforcement at Our Borders
6 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Our border security is directly tied to our
4 national security.

5 (2) U.S. Customs and Border Protection faces
6 a daunting challenge in maintaining situational
7 awareness along the United States northern and
8 southern borders.

9 (3) The United States northern border is the
10 longest common non-militarized border between two
11 countries.

12 (4) The United States southern border is nearly
13 2,000 miles long, stretching across rugged and var-
14 ied terrain.

15 (5) Emerging technologies present an oppor-
16 tunity to reduce current strains on manpower while
17 improving situational awareness along the northern
18 and southern borders.

19 (6) U.S. Customs and Border Protection is cur-
20 rently testing a number of emerging technology pro-
21 grams that will help improve situational awareness
22 along the northern and southern borders.

23 (7) Successfully integrating these technologies
24 into a layered border defense requires a strategic
25 plan for transitioning new programs from the testing

1 and development stage to wide-scale implementation
2 along both the northern and southern borders.

3 **SEC. 3. COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO ACHIEVE GREATER SIT-**
4 **UATIONAL AWARENESS ALONG THE NORTH-**
5 **ERN AND SOUTHERN BORDERS OF THE**
6 **UNITED STATES.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
8 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Home-
9 land Security shall develop and submit to the Committee
10 on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives
11 and the Committee on Homeland Security and Govern-
12 mental Affairs of the Senate a plan to identify, deploy,
13 and integrate emerging and advanced technologies, such
14 as artificial intelligence, machine-learning, automation,
15 fiber-optic sensing technology, nanotechnology, optical and
16 cognitive radar, modeling and simulation technology,
17 hyperspectral and LIDAR sensors, imaging, identification,
18 and categorization systems, and other similar emerging
19 and advanced technologies, to achieve greater situational
20 awareness along the northern and southern borders of the
21 United States between ports of entry.

22 (b) CONTENTS.—The plan required under subsection
23 (a) shall include the following:

24 (1) An assessment of how U.S. Customs and
25 Border Protection (CBP) is currently utilizing

1 emerging and advanced technologies referred to in
2 such subsection to achieve situational awareness
3 along the northern and southern borders of the
4 United States.

5 (2) An assessment of how border security capa-
6 bility gaps can be addressed through the integration
7 and deployment of such technologies.

8 (3) Cost estimates for the acquisition and main-
9 tenance, as the case may be, of technologies referred
10 to in such subsection.

11 (4) Metrics to measure how technologies re-
12 ferred to in such subsection will assist in supporting
13 CBP's mission.

14 (5) An assessment of how metrics referred to in
15 paragraph (4) can be used to facilitate improve-
16 ments in situational awareness at the northern and
17 southern borders of the United States.

18 (6) An assessment of how the integration of
19 such technologies will support the improvement of
20 multi-domain awareness capabilities.

21 (7) An analysis of technologies used by other
22 Federal departments and agencies not in use by
23 CBP that could assist in improving situational
24 awareness, and how such technologies would be uti-
25 lized.

1 (8) An analysis of authorities CBP can use to
2 procure technologies referred to in such subsection,
3 and whether additional or alternative authorities are
4 needed.

5 (9) An explanation of how CBP plans to scale
6 existing programs related to emerging and advanced
7 technologies and efficiently transition new tech-
8 nology systems into programs of record.

9 (10) An assessment of CBP legacy technology
10 programs that could be phased out and replaced by
11 technologies referred to in such subsection and cost
12 estimates relating to phasing out and replacing such
13 programs.

14 (11) Information relating to how CBP is coordi-
15 nating with the Department of Homeland Security's
16 Science and Technology Directorate to—

17 (A) research and develop new technologies
18 to meet mission needs and address gaps in situ-
19 ational awareness; and

20 (B) incentivize the private sector to de-
21 velop technologies that will help meet mission
22 needs to address gaps in situational awareness.

23 (c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “situa-
24 tional awareness” has the meaning given such term in sec-
25 tion 1092(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act

1 for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328; 6 U.S.C.
2 223).

