

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1514

To expedite detainee transport to border patrol processing facilities.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 29, 2021

Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, and Ms. SINEMA) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To expedite detainee transport to border patrol processing facilities.

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 Transportation
5 Efficiency Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. COMMERCIAL DRIVER PROGRAM.**

7 (a) **DEFINED TERM.**—In this section, the term “re-
8 mote border patrol station” means a U.S. Border Patrol
9 station located in an area within the United States along
10 the international border between the United States and

1 Mexico that is not within an area defined and designated
2 by the Bureau of the Census as an urbanized area.

3 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Commissioner of U.S.
4 Customs and Border Protection shall establish a program
5 to expedite detainee transport to border patrol processing
6 facilities by ensuring, beginning not later than 1 year after
7 the date of the enactment of this Act, that—

8 (1) not fewer than 300 U.S. Border Patrol
9 agents assigned to remote border patrol stations
10 have a commercial driver’s license with a passenger
11 endorsement for detainee transport;

12 (2) in each of the El Paso, Laredo, Rio Grande
13 Valley, San Diego, Yuma, and Tucson U.S. Border
14 Patrol Sectors—

15 (A) not fewer than 5 U.S. Border Patrol
16 agents with a commercial driver’s license are
17 available during every shift; and

18 (B) not fewer than 5 buses are assigned to
19 the sector; and

20 (3) in each of the Big Bend, Del Rio, and El
21 Centro U.S. Border Patrol Sectors—

22 (A) not fewer than 2 U.S. Border Patrol
23 agents with a commercial driver’s license are
24 available during every shift; and

1 (B) not fewer than 3 buses are assigned to
2 the sector.

3 (c) RELOCATION.—Buses assigned to specific U.S.
4 Border Patrol sectors pursuant to subsection (b) may be
5 relocated to other sectors in response to changing migra-
6 tion patterns.

7 (d) REDUCING WAIT TIMES AT REMOTE U.S. BOR-
8 DER PATROL STATIONS.—The Commissioner of U.S. Cus-
9 toms and Border Protection shall ensure that sufficient
10 buses are available in each U.S. Border Patrol sector to
11 avoid subjecting detainees to long wait times at remote
12 border patrol stations.

13 (e) USE OF OFFICIAL DUTY TIME.—A U.S. Border
14 Patrol agent shall be credited with work time for the proc-
15 ess of obtaining and maintaining a commercial driver's li-
16 cense under subsection (b).

17 (f) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary of
18 Homeland Security shall submit quarterly reports regard-
19 ing the average length of detainees' stay at U.S. Border
20 Patrol stations to—

- 21 (1) the Committee on Homeland Security and
22 Governmental Affairs of the Senate; and
23 (2) the Committee on Homeland Security of the
24 House of Representatives.

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