

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4642

To require a comprehensive southern border strategy, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 27, 2022

Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. HAGERTY, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To require a comprehensive southern border strategy, 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 “Comprehensive South-
5 ern Border Strategy Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. COMPREHENSIVE SOUTHERN BORDER STRATEGY.**

7 (a) COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY.—

8 (1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 12 months
9 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
10 retary of Homeland Security shall submit to the

1 Committee on Homeland Security of the House of
2 Representatives and the Committee on Homeland
3 Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a
4 comprehensive southern border strategy.

5 (2) CONTENTS.—The strategy submitted under
6 paragraph (1) shall include—

7 (A) a comprehensive overview of the cur-
8 rent security risks present along the southern
9 border, including relating to deficiencies along
10 the physical border, aerial and maritime
11 vulnerabilities, and the presence of illegal tun-
12 neling;

13 (B) a substantive review of the Depart-
14 ment of Homeland Security’s technology, tools,
15 or other devices used to combat the trafficking
16 of drugs across the southern border, with an
17 emphasis on fentanyl and related substances;

18 (C) a thorough outline of the Department’s
19 technology, tools, or other devices used to com-
20 bat human trafficking across the southern bor-
21 der by international criminal organizations;

22 (D) a list of known physical barriers, tech-
23 nologies, tools, and other devices that can be
24 used to achieve and maintain situational aware-

1 ness and operational control along the southern
2 border;

3 (E) a projected per mile cost estimate for
4 each physical barrier, technology, tool, and
5 other device included on the list required under
6 subparagraph (B);

7 (F) a detailed account of which type of
8 physical barrier, technology, tool, or other de-
9 vice the Department of Homeland Security be-
10 lieves is necessary to achieve and maintain situ-
11 ational awareness and operational control for
12 each linear mile of the southern border;

13 (G) an explanation for why such physical
14 barrier, technology, tool, or other device was
15 chosen to achieve and maintain situational
16 awareness and operational control for each lin-
17 ear mile of the southern border, including—

18 (i) the methodology used to determine
19 which type of physical barrier, technology,
20 tool, or other device was chosen for such
21 linear mile;

22 (ii) an examination of existing man-
23 made and natural barriers for each linear
24 mile of the southern border; and

(iii) the information collected and evaluated from—

(I) the appropriate U.S. Customs and Border Protection Sector Chief;

(II) the Joint Task Force Commander;

(III) the appropriate State Governor;

(IV) local law enforcement officials;

(V) private property owners; and

(VI) other affected stakeholders;

(H) a per mile cost calculation for each linear mile of the southern border given the type of physical barrier, technology, tool, or other device chosen to achieve and maintain operational control for each linear mile; and

(I) a cost justification for each time a more expensive physical barrier, technology, tool, or other device is chosen over a less expensive option, as established by the per mile cost estimates required in subparagraph (B).

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) OPERATIONAL CONTROL.—The term “operational control” has the meaning given such term in

1 section 2(b) of the Secure Fence Act of 2006 (8
2 U.S.C. 1701 note; Public Law 109–367).

3 (2) SITUATIONAL AWARENESS.—The term “sit-
4 uational awareness” has the meaning given the term
5 in section 1092(a)(7) of the National Defense Au-
6 thorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law
7 114–328).

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