

Calendar No. 579

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION**S. 4656****[Report No. 117–222]**

To reauthorize and amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to create stronger accountability mechanisms for Joint Task Forces.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 28, 2022

Mr. PETERS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

DECEMBER 5, 2022

Reported by Mr. PETERS, with an amendment

[Omit the part struck through and insert the part printed in *italic*]**A BILL**

To reauthorize and amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to create stronger accountability mechanisms for Joint Task Forces.

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 “DHS Joint Task
5 Forces Reauthorization Act of 2022”.

1 **SEC. 2. AMENDING SECTION 708 OF THE HOMELAND SECU-**
 2 **RITY ACT OF 2002.**

3 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF THE SENATE.**

4 *It is the sense of the Senate that the Department of*
 5 *Homeland Security should consider using the authority*
 6 *under subsection (b) of section 708 of the Homeland Secu-*
 7 *rity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 348(b)) to create a Joint Task*
 8 *Force described in such subsection to improve coordination*
 9 *and response to the number of encounters and amount of*
 10 *seizures of illicit narcotics along the southwest border.*

11 **SEC. 3. AMENDING SECTION 708 OF THE HOMELAND SECU-**
 12 **RITY ACT OF 2002.**

13 Section 708(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002
 14 (6 U.S.C. 348(b)) is amended—

15 (1) by striking paragraph (8) and inserting the
 16 following:

17 “(8) JOINT TASK FORCE STAFF.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each Joint Task
 19 Force shall have a staff, composed of officials
 20 from relevant components and offices of the De-
 21 partment, to assist the Director of that Joint
 22 Task Force in carrying out the mission and re-
 23 sponsibilities of that Joint Task Force.

24 “(B) REPORT.—The Secretary shall in-
 25 clude in the report submitted under paragraph
 26 (6)(F)—

1 “(i) the number of personnel perma-
2 nently assigned to each Joint Task Force
3 by each component and office; and

4 “(ii) the number of personnel assigned
5 on a temporary basis to each Joint Task
6 Force by each component and office.”;

7 (2) in paragraph (9)—

8 (A) in the heading, by inserting “STRAT-
9 EGY AND OF” after “ESTABLISHMENT OF”;

10 (B) by striking subparagraph (A) and in-
11 serting the following:

12 “(A) using leading practices in perform-
13 ance management and lessons learned by other
14 law enforcement task forces and joint oper-
15 ations, establish a strategy for each Joint Task
16 Force that contains—

17 “(i) the mission of each Joint Task
18 Force and strategic goals and objectives to
19 assist the Joint Task Force in accom-
20 plishing that mission; and

21 “(ii) outcome-based and other appro-
22 priate performance metrics to evaluate the
23 effectiveness of each Joint Task Force and
24 measure progress towards the goals and

objectives described in clause (i), which include—

“(I) targets for current and future fiscal years; and

“(II) a description of the methodology used to establish those metrics and any limitations with respect to data or information used to assess performance;”;

(C) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by striking “enactment of this section” and insert “enactment of the DHS Joint Task Forces Reauthorization Act of 2022”;

(ii) by inserting “strategy and” after “Senate the”; and

(iii) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(D) by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting the following:

“(C) beginning not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the DHS Joint Task Forces Reauthorization Act of 2022, submit annually to each committee specified in subparagraph (B) a report that—

1 “(i) contains the evaluation described
2 in subparagraphs (A) and (B); and

3 “(ii) outlines the progress in imple-
4 menting outcome-based and other perform-
5 ance metrics referred to in subparagraph
6 (A)(ii).”;

7 (3) in paragraph (11)(A), by striking the period
8 at the end and inserting the following: “, which shall
9 include—

10 “(i) the justification, focus, and mis-
11 sion of the Joint Task Force; and

12 “(ii) a strategy for the conduct of the
13 Joint Task Force, including goals and per-
14 formance metrics for the Joint Task
15 Force.”;

16 (4) in paragraph (12)—

17 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “Jan-
18 uary 31, 2018, and January 31, 2021, the In-
19 spector General of the Department” and insert-
20 ing “1 year after the date of enactment of the
21 DHS Joint Task Forces Reauthorization Act of
22 2022, the Comptroller General of the United
23 States”; and

24 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking
25 clauses (i) and (ii) and inserting the following:

1 “(i) an assessment of the structure of
2 each Joint Task Force;

3 “(ii) an assessment of the effective-
4 ness of oversight over each Joint Task
5 Force;

6 “(iii) an assessment of the strategy of
7 each Joint Task Force; and

8 “(iv) an assessment of staffing levels
9 and resources of each Joint Task Force.”;
10 and

11 (5) in paragraph (13), by striking “2022” and
12 inserting “2024”.

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