

HR 5130

Secure Borders Act

Congress: 108 (2003–2005, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Crime and Law Enforcement

Introduced: Sep 23, 2004

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Claims.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Claims. (Nov 5, 2004)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/108th-congress/house-bill/5130>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Turner, Jim [D-TX-2]

Party: Democratic • **State:** TX • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (20 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Del. Christensen, Donna M. [D-VI-At Large]	D · VI		Sep 23, 2004
Del. Norton, Eleanor Holmes [D-DC-At Large]	D · DC		Sep 23, 2004
Rep. Bell, Chris [D-TX-25]	D · TX		Sep 23, 2004
Rep. Davis, Susan A. [D-CA-53]	D · CA		Sep 23, 2004
Rep. Dicks, Norman D. [D-WA-6]	D · WA		Sep 23, 2004
Rep. Frost, Martin [D-TX-24]	D · TX		Sep 23, 2004
Rep. Gonzalez, Charles A. [D-TX-20]	D · TX		Sep 23, 2004
Rep. Green, Gene [D-TX-29]	D · TX		Sep 23, 2004
Rep. Hinojosa, Ruben [D-TX-15]	D · TX		Sep 23, 2004
Rep. Jackson-Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]	D · TX		Sep 23, 2004
Rep. Lampson, Nick [D-TX-9]	D · TX		Sep 23, 2004
Rep. Langevin, James R. [D-RI-2]	D · RI		Sep 23, 2004
Rep. McCarthy, Karen [D-MO-5]	D · MO		Sep 23, 2004
Rep. Ortiz, Solomon P. [D-TX-27]	D · TX		Sep 23, 2004
Rep. Pascrell, Bill, Jr. [D-NJ-8]	D · NJ		Sep 23, 2004
Rep. Reyes, Silvestre [D-TX-16]	D · TX		Sep 23, 2004
Rep. Rodriguez, Ciro D. [D-TX-28]	D · TX		Sep 23, 2004
Rep. Sandlin, Max [D-TX-1]	D · TX		Sep 23, 2004
Rep. Slaughter, Louise McIntosh [D-NY-28]	D · NY		Sep 23, 2004
Rep. Etheridge, Bob [D-NC-2]	D · NC		Sep 28, 2004

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security Committee	House	Referred to	Oct 1, 2004
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred to	Nov 5, 2004
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred To	Sep 23, 2004
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred to	Oct 8, 2004

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Crime and Law Enforcement

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Secure Borders Act - Establishes the Land Border Infrastructure Improvement Fund.

Requires the Secretary of Homeland Security (Secretary) to conduct a vulnerability assessment of land ports of entry (POEs).

Directs the Secretary to: (1) make permanent specified pre-enrollment programs that allow expedited inspections at POEs for participants; (2) develop a comprehensive plan to deploy technological surveillance systems along U.S. borders; (3) increase the number of K-9 units working within U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP); (4) ensure that radiation portal monitors are installed at all southern border POEs no later than September 30, 2005; (5) contract with an independent entity to study the necessary allocation of personnel at POEs and Border Patrol sectors; and (6) provide ongoing training for inspectors.

Requires the Commissioner of Customs to submit a report to Congress on the One Face at the Border Initiative (a Department of Homeland Security [DHS] initiative that unifies customs, immigration, and agricultural inspection functions by cross-training CBP personnel) that addresses: (1) the effectiveness of the initiative in enhancing security and facilitating trade; (2) the number of CBP personnel who worked for the former Customs Service or the former Immigration and Naturalization Service before the DHS was established and the number hired after its establishment; (3) training time provided to each employee for initiative components; (4) steps taken by CBP to ensure that expertise is retained with regard to customs, immigration, and agriculture inspection functions under the initiative; and (5) whether the missions of customs, agriculture, and immigration are equally emphasized. Requires the Comptroller General to review such reports and report on the effectiveness of the initiative.

Requires the Secretary to: (1) submit unclassified and classified versions of a comprehensive border security strategy; (2) integrate the IDENT and IAFIS databases; and (3) make interoperable those databases used by inspectors in secondary inspections.

Amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to create the positions of Northern Border Coordinator and Southern Border Coordinator within the DHS's Directorate of Border and Transportation Security.

Requires the President to submit information regarding progress toward implementation of the Smart Border Accords.

Expresses the sense of Congress that Mexicans and Canadians should be treated with parity in establishing periods of lawful admission.

States that, once the entry-exit data system required by the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 is fully implemented, the period of admission for aliens holding border crossing cards shall be six months.

Requires the Secretary to create an Office of US-VISIT Outreach to inform local border officials, residents, and businesses about developments in the US-VISIT program.

Amends the Immigration and Naturalization Service Data Management Improvement Act of 2000 to reconstitute the integrated entry-exit system task force.

Requires the Secretary to: (1) ensure implementation of electronic arrival/departure records no later than December 1, 2005; (2) report on the development and distribution of a transportation worker identification card; and (3) establish standards and verification procedures for the security of intermodal cargo containers.

Expresses the sense of Congress regarding the need for additional staff for the U.S. Consulate-General in Mexico.

Establishes the Office of Tribal Security within DHS.

Requires the Secretary to transfer the CBP Customs Patrol Officers unit operating on the Tohono O'odham Indian reservation (known as the Shadow Wolves) to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Requires development and implementation of State identification document standards as a prerequisite for the acceptance of such documents by Federal agencies. Requires the Secretary to make grants to assist States and localities in issuing documents that meet those standards.

Authorizes appropriations for an increase in staff and detention space for ICE.

Expresses the sense of Congress that: (1) immigration cases involving incarcerated criminal aliens should be processed while the alien is in prison; and (2) appropriations should be authorized for staff increases for judicial and prosecutorial offices to better enforce immigration laws.

Amends the Immigration and Nationality Act to create a new subclass in the S (witness or informant) nonimmigrant visa category for certain aliens in possession of critical reliable information regarding commercial alien smuggling organizations or enterprises. Provides for adjustment of status for such nonimmigrants.

Imposes increased penalties for, and establishes a rewards program to combat, aggravated alien smuggling. Requires the U.S. Sentencing Commission (USSC) to promulgate sentencing guidelines that reflect enhanced sentences and fines for alien smuggling.

Amends the Federal criminal code to enhance penalties for smuggling merchandise into the United States. Requires the USSC to amend sentencing guidelines to provide sentencing enhancements for merchandise smuggling that results in a death.

Amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to create an Office of Overseas Service within DHS's Office of International Affairs.

Requires the Secretary to: (1) report on implementation of prior recommendations regarding visa security; (2) establish an electronic advance passenger screening system for visa waiver program (VWP) participants as part of an integrated entry-exit system; (3) create a VWP Office; and (4) provide fraud detection and foreign language training for inspectors inspecting VWP aliens.

Requires the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) Ombudsman to launch a public information campaign and to establish an advisory group that provides private sector input.

Directs the Comptroller General to assess CIS and report findings to the Secretary, the Secretary of State, and appropriate congressional committees.

Requires the Secretary to study biometric identifiers that might be used for immigration benefit applications and petitions. Requires all fingerprints taken for adjudicating such applications or petitions to be digitized, and all such applications or petitions to be registered using a biometric identifier, no later than January 1, 2005.

Actions Timeline

- **Nov 5, 2004:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Claims.
- **Oct 8, 2004:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Trade.
- **Oct 1, 2004:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Infrastructure and Border Security.
- **Sep 23, 2004:** Introduced in House
- **Sep 23, 2004:** Introduced in House
- **Sep 23, 2004:** Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Ways and Means, and Homeland Security (Select), 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.
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