

## HR 2281

### Border Enforcement Security Task Force Reauthorization Act of 2017

**Congress:** 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Emergency Management

**Introduced:** May 2, 2017

**Current Status:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. (May 18, 2017)

**Latest Action:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. (May 18, 2017)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/2281>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Vela, Filemon [D-TX-34]

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

### Cosponsors (5 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Barragan, Nanette Diaz [D-CA-44]	D · CA		May 2, 2017
Rep. Correa, J. Luis [D-CA-46]	D · CA		May 2, 2017
Rep. McSally, Martha [R-AZ-2]	R · AZ		May 2, 2017
Rep. Richmond, Cedric L. [D-LA-2]	D · LA		May 2, 2017
Rep. Thompson, Bennie G. [D-MS-2]	D · MS		May 2, 2017

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 18, 2017
Homeland Security Committee	House	Reported By	May 16, 2017
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Bills of Interest - Exchange of Letters	Sep 13, 2018

### Subjects & Policy Tags

#### Policy Area:

Emergency Management

### Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
115 S 1199	Related bill	Oct 30, 2017: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 254.

(This measure has not been amended since it was reported to the House on May 16, 2017. The summary of that version is repeated here.)

### **Border Enforcement Security Task Force Reauthorization Act of 2017**

(Sec. 2) This bill amends the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), before establishing a Border Enforcement Security Task Force (BEST) unit, to apply risk-based criteria that takes into consideration specified factors, including:

- whether the area in which the unit would be established is significantly impacted by threats posed by transnational criminal organizations;
- the extent to which the unit would advance DHS's homeland and border security strategic priorities and related objectives; and
- whether departmental Joint Task Force operations would be enhanced, improved, or otherwise assisted by the unit.

A BEST unit with a port security nexus must be composed of at least one member of each of: (1) the Coast Guard Investigative Service, and (2) the geographically-responsible Coast Guard Sector Intelligence Office.

The bill requires DHS to submit an annual report on the BEST program for the next five years, and such report must include:

- a description of the effectiveness of BEST in disrupting and dismantling transnational criminal organizations;
- an assessment of how BEST enhances information-sharing, including the dissemination of homeland security information, among federal, state, local, tribal, and foreign law enforcement agencies;
- a description of how BEST advances DHS's homeland and border security strategic priorities and effectiveness of BEST in achieving related objectives; and
- an assessment of BEST's joint operational efforts with departmental Joint Task Force operations.

### **Actions Timeline**

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- **May 18, 2017:** Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.
- **May 17, 2017:** Mr. Katko moved to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.
- **May 17, 2017:** Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H4271-4273)
- **May 17, 2017:** DEBATE - The House proceeded with forty minutes of debate on H.R. 2281.
- **May 17, 2017:** Passed/agreed to in House: On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote.(text: CR H4271)
- **May 17, 2017:** On motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended Agreed to by voice vote. (text: CR H4271)
- **May 17, 2017:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **May 16, 2017:** Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Homeland Security. H. Rept. 115-122.
- **May 16, 2017:** Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 75.
- **May 3, 2017:** Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.
- **May 3, 2017:** Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by Voice Vote.
- **May 2, 2017:** Introduced in House
- **May 2, 2017:** Referred to the House Committee on Homeland Security.