

S 2162

Securing America's Borders Act of 2019

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Immigration

Introduced: Jul 18, 2019

Current Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 615.

Latest Action: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 615. (Dec 14, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/senate-bill/2162>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Johnson, Ron [R-WI]

Party: Republican • **State:** WI • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors

No cosponsors are listed for this bill.

Committee Activity

| Committee | Chamber | Activity | Date |
|--|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee | Senate | Reported By | Dec 14, 2020 |

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Immigration

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Securing America's Borders Act of 2019

This bill addresses the hiring, training, and retention of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) employees.

CBP shall hire a certain number of new Border Patrol agents each fiscal year until there is an equivalent of 26,370 full-time agents.

CBP may hire Border Patrol processing coordinators to assist with processing apprehended persons.

CBP shall establish a program to provide emergency medical technician (EMT) and paramedic training to selected agents. CBP shall also take efforts to ensure that at least 10% of agents have EMT or paramedic certifications and that such agents are assigned in sufficient numbers to the U.S. southern border.

Furthermore, the bill contains provisions to address staffing shortages in rural and remote areas, including by (1) waiving certain hiring-related requirements in some instances; (2) authorizing recruitment, relocation, and retention bonuses, subject to various requirements; and (3) authorizing special pay rates in certain instances.

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) shall establish a CBP Hiring and Retention Innovation Council, which shall report to Congress as to whether a new pay and employee classification system would improve CBP hiring and retention. DHS shall also carry out pilot programs to improve CBP hiring and retention.

The bill also requires CBP to make various updates and changes to its comprehensive staffing analysis.

The Government Accountability Office shall report to Congress on CBP's efforts to increase the percentage of agents with EMT or paramedic certifications and on CBP's comprehensive staffing analysis.

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 14, 2020:** Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Reported by Senator Johnson with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. With written report No. 116-312.
- **Dec 14, 2020:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 615.
- **Nov 6, 2019:** Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Jul 18, 2019:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 18, 2019:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.