

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 10265

To establish the Department of Homeland Security Northern Border Mission Center, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 29, 2024

Mr. SUOZZI (for himself and Mr. PAPPAS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

A BILL

To establish the Department of Homeland Security Northern Border Mission Center, 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 “Securing our Northern
5 Border Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY NORTH-**
7 **ERN BORDER MISSION CENTER.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after
9 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall

1 establish the Department of Homeland Security Northern
2 Border Mission Center.

3 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Center shall be
4 to serve as the Department’s forward deployed centralized
5 operations support center for domain awareness, informa-
6 tion sharing, intelligence, training, and stakeholder en-
7 gagement with Federal, State, tribal, local, and inter-
8 national government partners along the northern border
9 of the United States.

10 (c) LOCATION.—The Center shall be placed along the
11 northern border at a location that is collocated with an
12 existing U.S. Border Patrol sector headquarters, an Air
13 and Marine Operations branch, and a United States Coast
14 Guard air station, and other existing Department activi-
15 ties.

16 (d) COMPONENTS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Center shall collocate
18 personnel and activities of—

19 (A) U.S. Customs and Border Protection;

20 (B) the United States Coast Guard;

21 (C) U.S. Immigration and Customs En-
22 forcement’s Homeland Security Investigations;
23 and

24 (D) other components and offices of the
25 Department that the Secretary determines to be

1 necessary, including to support the training,
2 technology testing, and development described
3 in subsection (e).

4 (2) ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL.—Additional Fed-
5 eral, State, tribal, local, and international govern-
6 ment partners may be colocated as the Secretary
7 determines to be necessary and appropriate to sup-
8 port the operations described in this section.

9 (e) FUNCTIONS.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Center shall perform
11 the functions described in this subsection in addition
12 to any other functions assigned by the Secretary. In
13 carrying out these functions, the Center shall sup-
14 port the Department’s northern border security op-
15 erations.

16 (2) NORTHERN BORDER STRATEGY.—The Cen-
17 ter, in collaboration with relevant offices and compo-
18 nents of the Department, shall—

19 (A) serve as a coordination mechanism for
20 operational components for the implementation
21 of the Department of Homeland Security
22 Northern Border Strategy and any successor
23 strategy and support appropriate offices of the
24 Department in the evaluation and updating of
25 the Department of Homeland Security North-

1 ern Border Strategy and any successor strat-
2 egy; and

3 (B) support the development of best prac-
4 tices and policies for personnel at the northern
5 border to support such implementation.

6 (3) TRAINING.—The Center shall serve as a
7 training location to support the delivery of training
8 or exercises for Department personnel and Federal,
9 State, tribal, local, and international government
10 partners.

11 (4) RESOURCE AND TECHNOLOGICAL NEEDS
12 AND CHALLENGES.—The Center, in collaboration
13 with relevant offices and components of the Depart-
14 ment, shall—

15 (A) identify resource and technological
16 needs or challenges affecting security along the
17 northern border; and

18 (B) serve as a testing ground and dem-
19 onstration location for the testing of border se-
20 curity technology, including determining such
21 technology's suitability and performance in the
22 northern border and maritime environments.

23 (5) AIR AND MARINE OPERATIONS.—

24 (A) QUICK REACTION CAPABILITIES.—In
25 support of the Center, U.S. Customs and Bor-

1 der Protection’s Air and Marine Operations
2 shall establish and maintain capability that is
3 collocated with the Center and available for
4 quick deployment in support of the northern
5 border missions, U.S. Customs and Border Pro-
6 tection, and the Department, including missions
7 in the Great Lakes region.

8 (B) NORTHERN BORDER DOMAIN AWARE-
9 NESS.—In order to coordinate with the Center
10 and support its operations, the Air and Marine
11 Operations Center shall collocate personnel and
12 resources with the Center to enhance the De-
13 partment’s capabilities to—

14 (i) support air and maritime domain
15 awareness and information sharing efforts
16 along the northern border;

17 (ii) provide dedicated monitoring of
18 northern border systems; and

19 (iii) lead, in coordination with other
20 U.S. Customs and Border Protection com-
21 ponents, Federal, State, tribal, local, and
22 international governments, and private sec-
23 tor partners, the Center’s efforts to track
24 and monitor legitimate cross-border traffic

1 involving unmanned aircraft and un-
2 manned aircraft systems.

3 (6) COUNTER-UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYS-
4 TEMS.—

5 (A) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to policies es-
6 tablished by the Secretary, consistent with sec-
7 tion 210G of the Homeland Security Act of
8 2002 (6 U.S.C. 124n), the Center shall support
9 counter-unmanned aircraft systems operations
10 along the northern border to respond to the in-
11 creased use of unmanned aircraft systems.

12 (B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
13 this section may be construed to provide addi-
14 tional authority related to detection, mitigation,
15 research, development, or testing of unmanned
16 aircraft systems or counter-unmanned aircraft
17 systems.

18 (7) PRIVACY AND CIVIL RIGHTS.—The Center,
19 in collaboration with the Chief Privacy Officer and
20 the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties of the
21 Department, shall ensure that operations and prac-
22 tices of the Center comply with the privacy and civil
23 rights policies of the Department and its compo-
24 nents, and as necessary, ensure there are resources

1 or personnel available to support the Center's mis-
2 sion onsite.

3 (8) NONCONTIGUOUS NORTHERN BORDER.—

4 The Center, in collaboration with relevant offices
5 and components of the Department, shall identify
6 the specific challenges that exist along the non-
7 contiguous international land border with Canada
8 and the maritime border with Russia, including re-
9 source, technological challenges, and domain aware-
10 ness.

11 (f) ANNUAL REPORTING.—Not later than 180 days
12 after the establishment of the Center, and annually there-
13 after, the Secretary shall submit a report, that may in-
14 clude a classified annex or a sensitive but unclassified
15 annex, to the Committee on Homeland Security and Gov-
16 ernmental Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on For-
17 eign Relations of the Senate, the Committee on Com-
18 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, the
19 Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Rep-
20 resentatives, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
21 House of Representatives, and the Committee on Trans-
22 portation and Infrastructure of the House of Representa-
23 tives that describes the activities of the Center during the
24 most recently concluded fiscal year, including—

25 (1) personnel levels;

1 (2) additional resources that are needed to sup-
2 port the operations of the Center and northern bor-
3 der operations of the Department; and

4 (3) any additional assets or authorities that are
5 needed to increase security and domain awareness
6 along the northern border.

7 (g) TEMPORARY DUTY ASSIGNMENTS.—The Sec-
8 retary shall submit a quarterly report to the Committee
9 on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the
10 Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the
11 House of Representatives regarding temporary duty as-
12 signments of U.S. Border Patrol agents during the report-
13 ing period, including—

14 (1) the number of agents on temporary duty as-
15 signment;

16 (2) the duration of the temporary duty assign-
17 ment;

18 (3) the sectors from which the agents were as-
19 signed; and

20 (4) the sectors to which the agents were as-
21 signed.

22 (h) REPORT ON LARGE UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYS-
23 TEMS OPERATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date
24 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland
25 Security shall submit a report to the Committee on Home-

land Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives on the Department's operation of large unmanned aircraft systems. The report shall include information on existing large unmanned aircraft systems, as well as recommendations on how to enable the operations of large unmanned aircraft systems based at the Center established pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

(i) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

(1) AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH CENTER.—The Center established pursuant to subsection (a) shall be established separate and distinct from the Secretary's authorities under section 708 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 348).

(2) COMMANDANT AUTHORITY.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect, impinge, or alter any authority of the Commandant of the Coast Guard under title 14 or title 46, United States Code, or limit the Commandant's discretion and ability to deploy Coast Guard assets and personnel.

(j) SUNSET.—This section shall cease to be effective beginning on October 1, 2027.

1 (k) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—No additional funds
2 are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of car-
3 rying out this section.

4 (l) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) CENTER.—The term “Center” means the
6 Department of Homeland Security Northern Border
7 Mission Center established pursuant to subsection
8 (a).

9 (2) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department”
10 means the Department of Homeland Security.

11 (3) NORTHERN BORDER.—The term “northern
12 border” means—

13 (A) the international border between the
14 United States and Canada; and

15 (B) the maritime border between Alaska
16 and the Russian Federation.

17 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
18 the Secretary of Homeland Security.

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