

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 10499

To establish a pilot program on home kenneling of canines for U.S. Customs and Border Protection’s Office of Field Operations, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 18, 2024

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mrs. McIVER, and Mr. LUTTRELL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

A BILL

To establish a pilot program on home kenneling of canines for U.S. Customs and Border Protection’s Office of Field Operations, 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 “CBP Canine Home
5 Kenneling Pilot Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM ON CANINE HOME KENNELING**
7 **PROGRAM.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the
9 date of the enactment of this Act, the Executive Assistant
10 Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection’s

1 (CBP) Office of Field Operations (OFO) shall establish
2 a pilot program (in this section referred to as the “pilot
3 program”) to assess whether a canine home kenneling pro-
4 gram would benefit the OFO, including both canine han-
5 dlers and canines.

6 (b) GUIDANCE.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Prior to establishing the
8 pilot program, the Executive Assistant Commis-
9 sioner shall distribute written guidance for Field Of-
10 fices of OFO to use while implementing the canine
11 home kenneling pilot program.

12 (2) CONSULTATION.—In developing the guid-
13 ance referred to in paragraph (1), the Executive As-
14 sistant Commissioner shall consult with the following
15 entities:

16 (A) Components of the Department of
17 Homeland Security that utilize home kenneling.

18 (B) The Office of Health Security of the
19 Department of Homeland Security.

20 (C) Representatives of the National Treas-
21 ury Employees Union.

22 (c) TRAINING.—Prior to establishing the pilot pro-
23 gram, the Executive Assistant Commissioner shall carry
24 out the following:

1 (1) Establish training for canine handlers par-
2 ticipating in the pilot program to take full responsi-
3 bility of a canine's daily care, including feeding, ex-
4 ercise, and medical needs.

5 (2) Disseminate best practices for the integra-
6 tion of a working canine into the canine handler's
7 residence.

8 (d) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the pilot pro-
9 gram, the Executive Assistant Commissioner shall carry
10 out the following:

11 (1) Ensure that not fewer than ten ports of
12 entry participate in the pilot program.

13 (2) Ensure that canines assigned to seaports,
14 airports, and land ports of entry in both urban and
15 rural locations participate in the pilot program.

16 (3) Provide for the participation of canine han-
17 dlers on a voluntary basis.

18 (4) Continue the pilot program for a period of
19 not less than two years.

20 (5) Terminate the pilot program not more than
21 three years after the establishment of the pilot pro-
22 gram.

23 (e) BRIEFING AND REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

24 (1) BRIEFING.—Not later than one year after
25 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Executive

1 Assistant Commissioner shall provide to the appro-
2 priate congressional committees a briefing describing
3 the guidance, training and requirements for the pilot
4 program.

5 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after
6 the termination of the pilot program, the Executive
7 Assistant Commissioner shall submit to the appro-
8 priate congressional committees a report that in-
9 cludes the following:

10 (A) Information relating to the number
11 and location of participating canine teams.

12 (B) Findings of the pilot program, includ-
13 ing a cost-benefit, job performance, health, and
14 wellbeing analysis comparing use of home
15 kenneling with centralized kenneling practices.

16 (C) Recommendations regarding the con-
17 tinued use of home kenneling for CBP Office of
18 Field Operations.

19 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
21 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
22 mittees” means—

23 (A) the Committee on Homeland Security
24 in the House of Representatives; and

1 (B) the Committee on Homeland Security
2 and Governmental Affairs in the Senate.

3 (2) HOME KENNELING.—The term “home
4 kenneling” means the practice whereby canines used
5 for Federal law enforcement purposes are housed
6 and cared for at the residences of their assigned
7 handlers instead of a centralized facility owned or
8 contracted by a Federal agency.

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