

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8253

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish in the Department of Homeland Security the Biometric Identification Transnational Migration Alert Program, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 13, 2026

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

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## A BILL

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish in the Department of Homeland Security the Biometric Identification Transnational Migration Alert Program, 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 “Biometric Identifica-  
5 tion Transnational Migration Alert Program Authoriza-  
6 tion Act” or the “BITMAP Authorization Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. BIOMETRIC IDENTIFICATION TRANSNATIONAL MI-**  
2 **GRATION ALERT PROGRAM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle D of title IV of the  
4 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 251 et seq.)  
5 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

6 **“SEC. 448. BIOMETRIC IDENTIFICATION TRANSNATIONAL**  
7 **MIGRATION ALERT PROGRAM.**

8 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—In addition to the Sec-  
9 retary’s existing information sharing authorities provided  
10 under this title, the Immigration and Nationality Act  
11 (INA), or any other immigration law, there is established  
12 in the Department a program to be known as the ‘Biomet-  
13 ric Identification Transnational Migration Alert Program’  
14 (referred to in this section as ‘BITMAP’) to address and  
15 reduce national security, border security, and terrorist  
16 threats before such threats reach the international border  
17 of the United States.

18 “(b) DUTIES.—In carrying out BITMAP operations,  
19 the Secretary, acting through the Director of U.S. Immi-  
20 gration and Customs Enforcement, shall—

21 “(1) coordinate, in consultation with the Sec-  
22 retary of State, and the Director of National Intel-  
23 ligence, with appropriate representatives of foreign  
24 governments, and the heads of other Federal agen-  
25 cies, as appropriate, to facilitate the voluntary shar-  
26 ing of biometric and biographic information collected

1 from foreign nationals for the purpose of identifying  
2 and screening such nationals to identify those na-  
3 tionals who may pose a terrorist threat or a threat  
4 to national security or border security;

5 “(2) provide capabilities, including training and  
6 equipment, to partner countries to voluntarily collect  
7 biometric and biographic identification data from in-  
8 dividuals to identify, prevent, detect, and interdict  
9 high risk individuals identified as national security,  
10 border security, or terrorist threats who may at-  
11 tempt to enter the United States utilizing illicit  
12 pathways;

13 “(3) provide capabilities, including training and  
14 equipment, to partner countries to compare foreign  
15 data against appropriate United States national se-  
16 curity, border security, terrorism, immigration, and  
17 counter-terrorism data, including—

18 “(A) the Department’s Automated Biomet-  
19 ric Identification System (commonly known as  
20 ‘IDENT’), or successor database;

21 “(B) the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s  
22 Terrorist Screening Database, or successor  
23 database;

1 “(C) the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s  
2 Next Generation Identification database, or suc-  
3 cessor database;

4 “(D) the Department of Defense Auto-  
5 mated Biometric Identification System (com-  
6 monly known as ‘ABIS’), or successor database;  
7 and

8 “(E) any other database, notice, or means  
9 that the Secretary, in consultation with the  
10 heads of other Federal departments and agen-  
11 cies responsible for such databases, notices, or  
12 means, designates;

13 “(4) provide partner countries with training,  
14 guidance, and best practices recommendations re-  
15 garding the enrollment of individuals in BITMAP;  
16 and

17 “(5) ensure biometric and biographic identifica-  
18 tion data collected pursuant to BITMAP are incor-  
19 porated into appropriate United States Government  
20 databases, in compliance with the Privacy Act of  
21 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a.

22 “(c) COLLABORATION.—The Secretary shall ensure  
23 that BITMAP operations include participation from rel-  
24 evant components of the Department, and request partici-  
25 pation from other Federal agencies, as appropriate. Not-

1 withstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary  
2 may enter into agreements related to such participation  
3 on a reimbursable or non-reimbursable basis, as appro-  
4 priate.

5       “(d) AGREEMENTS.—Before carrying out BITMAP  
6 operations in a foreign country that, as of the date of the  
7 enactment of this section, was not a partner country de-  
8 scribed in this section, the Secretary, in consultation with  
9 the Secretary of State, shall enter into agreement or ar-  
10 rangement with the government of such country that sets  
11 forth program goals for such country, includes training,  
12 guidance, and best practices recommendations regarding  
13 the enrollment of individuals in BITMAP, and outlines  
14 such operations in such country, including related depart-  
15 mental operations. Such country shall be a partner coun-  
16 try described in this section pursuant to and for purposes  
17 of such agreement or arrangement.

18       “(e) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than  
19 60 days after an agreement or arrangement with the gov-  
20 ernment of a foreign country to carry out BITMAP oper-  
21 ations in such foreign country enters into force, the Sec-  
22 retary shall provide the Committee on Homeland Security  
23 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on  
24 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Sen-

1 ate with a copy of such agreement or arrangement to es-  
2 tablish such operations, including the following:

3 “(1) The identification of the foreign country  
4 with which the Secretary enters into such an agree-  
5 ment or arrangement.

6 “(2) Goals for BITMAP operations in the for-  
7 eign country.

8 “(f) CAPTURED INFORMATION OF UNITED STATES  
9 CITIZENS.—The Secretary shall ensure that any biometric  
10 or biographic identification data of United States citizens  
11 that is captured by BITMAP operations is expunged from  
12 all databases to which such data was uploaded, unless  
13 such data is retained for specific law enforcement or intel-  
14 ligence purposes.

15 “(g) SUNSET.—This section shall terminate on the  
16 date that is six years after the date of the enactment of  
17 this section.”.

18 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
19 on which the Biometric Identification Transnational Mi-  
20 gration Alert Program (BITMAP) is established under  
21 section 448 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (as  
22 added by subsection (a) of this section) and annually  
23 thereafter for the following five years, the Secretary of  
24 Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on  
25 Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and

1 the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental  
2 Affairs of the Senate a report that—

3 (1) outlines the strategic goals and operational  
4 plans for BITMAP;

5 (2) outlines key efforts and the progress made  
6 with each partner country;

7 (3) provides a description of the agreement or  
8 arrangement with the government of each such part-  
9 ner country, if practicable;

10 (4) provides budget information related to ex-  
11 penditures in support of BITMAP, including the  
12 source of funding and anticipated expenditures;

13 (5) sets forth Department of Homeland Secu-  
14 rity personnel, equipment, and infrastructure sup-  
15 port to be used by BITMAP, disaggregated by coun-  
16 try and number;

17 (6) includes the number of individuals each  
18 partner country enrolled into BITMAP during the  
19 reporting period, disaggregated by key categories, as  
20 determined by U.S. Immigration and Customs En-  
21 forcement;

22 (7) includes the training, guidance, and best  
23 practices recommendations provided pursuant to  
24 subsection (b)(4) of such section 448;

1 (8) includes a review of the redress process for  
2 BITMAP; and

3 (9) details the effectiveness of BITMAP oper-  
4 ations in enhancing national security, border secu-  
5 rity, and counterterrorism operations.

6 (c) BRIEFINGS.—Not later than 30 days after each  
7 report is submitted pursuant to subsection (b), the Sec-  
8 retary of Homeland Security shall brief the Committee on  
9 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Sen-  
10 ate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the  
11 House of Representatives regarding—

12 (1) individuals enrolled in BITMAP who have  
13 been apprehended at the United States border or in  
14 the interior of the United States; and

15 (2) asylum claims that were submitted by indi-  
16 viduals who are enrolled in BITMAP.

17 (d) GAO AUDIT.—Not later than six months after  
18 the date of the enactment of this Act and every three years  
19 thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States  
20 shall—

21 (1) conduct an audit that analyzes the effective-  
22 ness of BITMAP operations; and

23 (2) submit to the Committee on Homeland Se-  
24 curity and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and  
25 the Committee on Homeland Security of the House



1 of Representatives a report containing the results of  
2 such audit.

3 (e) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
4 in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is  
5 amended by inserting after the item relating to section  
6 447 the following new item:

“Sec. 448. Biometric Identification Transnational Migration Alert Program.”.

