

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8468

To protect the jobs of American railroad workers in cross-border traffic  
with Mexico, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 23, 2026

Mr. PAPPAS (for himself and Mr. GOODEN) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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## A BILL

To protect the jobs of American railroad workers in cross-  
border traffic with Mexico, 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 “Protecting American  
5       Railroad Workers’ Jobs Act of 2026”.

6       **SEC. 2. TRAIN CREW REQUIREMENTS.**

7       (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 201 of  
8       title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the  
9       end the following:

1 **“§ 20172. Border crossings and train crew require-**  
2 **ments**

3 “(a) BORDER CROSSINGS.—The Secretary of Trans-  
4 portation shall require—

5 “(1) any railroad carrier that is operating a  
6 freight train across the southern border into the  
7 United States to stop such train at the southern  
8 border to conduct a crew interchange and any feder-  
9 ally mandated safety testing; and

10 “(2) the railroad carrier to ensure that the only  
11 individuals who operate such trains after carrying  
12 out the activities described in paragraph (1) are in-  
13 dividuals—

14 “(A) who are—

15 “(i) nationals of the United States; or

16 “(ii) aliens residing in the United  
17 States and lawfully authorized to engage in  
18 employment in the United States; and

19 “(B) whose primary reporting point is in  
20 the United States and who perform no duties  
21 for a railroad carrier while physically outside of  
22 the United States.

23 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

24 “(1) ALIEN; NATIONAL OF THE UNITED  
25 STATES.—The terms ‘alien’ and ‘national of the  
26 United States’ have the meanings given those terms

1 in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality  
2 Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

3 “(2) SOUTHERN BORDER.—The term ‘southern  
4 border’ means the international border between the  
5 United States and Mexico.”.

6 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for sub-  
7 chapter II of chapter 201 of title 49, United States Code,  
8 is amended by adding at the end the following:

“20172. Border crossings and train crew requirements.”.

