

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5267

To improve the security clearance process and increase the number of
detention beds along the United States-Mexico border.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 7, 2004

Mr. ORTIZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on the Judiciary

A BILL

To improve the security clearance process and increase the
number of detention beds along the United States-Mexico
border.

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. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds the following:

5 (1) The United States must have adequate in-
6 frastructure and policies in place under the deten-
7 tion and removal operation of the Department of
8 Homeland Security to protect against terrorists im-
9 migrating into the United States.

1 (2) Other than Mexican (OTM) immigrants,
2 many from countries of interest, are immigrating to
3 the United States and are released at the border on
4 their own recognizance because of the lack of deten-
5 tion capacity.

6 (3) The Department of Homeland Security esti-
7 mates that up to 90 percent of these immigrants do
8 not appear for their hearings before the immigration
9 hearing officer.

10 (4) The Department of Homeland Security
11 needs more personnel at the borders with the nec-
12 essary security clearances and equipment to ade-
13 quately screen and detain immigrants coming to the
14 United States through our borders.

15 **SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENT IN SECURITY CLEARANCE PROCESS**
16 **AND INCREASE IN DETENTION BEDS ALONG**
17 **THE UNITED STATE-MEXICO BORDER.**

18 (a) IMPROVEMENT IN SECURITY CLEARANCE PROC-
19 ESS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall—

20 (1) expeditiously implement policies ensuring
21 that personnel of the Department of Homeland Se-
22 curity along the United States-Mexico border have
23 the security clearances required to access informa-
24 tion necessary to adequately screen immigrants en-
25 tering the United States at such border, including

1 IDENT and IAFIS databases and databases used
2 by the Department's inspectors in secondary inspec-
3 tions; and

4 (2) develop the interagency agreements and in-
5 formation technology infrastructure necessary for
6 border agents to adequately screen immigrants en-
7 tering the United States at such border.

8 (b) INCREASE IN DETENTION BEDS.—Subject to the
9 availability of appropriations, the Secretary of Homeland
10 Security shall increase by 2,000 the number of detention
11 beds in the Port Isabel Service Processing Center at Los
12 Fresnos, Texas.

○