

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 583

To enhance the safety of ports of entry in the United States, and for
other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 6, 2013

Mr. VELA (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. GALLEG0, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. O’ROURKE, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, and Mr. VARGAS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Agriculture, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To enhance the safety of ports of entry in the United States,
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 “Putting Our Resources
5 Toward Security (PORTS) Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCREASE IN NUMBER OF CUSTOMS AND BORDER**
2 **PROTECTION OFFICERS.**

3 (a) CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION OFFI-
4 CERS.—During the five-year period between fiscal years
5 2014 and 2018, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall,
6 subject to the availability of appropriations for such pur-
7 pose, increase by not fewer than 5,000 the total number
8 of full-time, active-duty Customs and Border Protection
9 Officers within United States Customs and Border Protec-
10 tion for posting at United States ports of entry above the
11 number of such officers for which funds were made avail-
12 able during fiscal year 2012.

13 (b) AGRICULTURE SPECIALISTS.—During the five-
14 year period between fiscal years 2014 and 2018, the Sec-
15 retary of Homeland Security shall, subject to the avail-
16 ability of appropriations for purpose, increase by not fewer
17 than 1,200 the number of full-time, active-duty Customs
18 and Border Protection agriculture specialists for posting
19 at United States ports of entry above the number of such
20 support personnel for which funds were made available
21 during fiscal year 2012.

22 (c) BORDER SECURITY SUPPORT PERSONNEL.—
23 During the five-year period between fiscal years 2014 and
24 2018, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall, subject
25 to the availability of appropriations for such purpose, in-
26 crease by not fewer than 350 the number of full-time, ac-

1 tive-duty border security support personnel for posting at
2 United States ports of entry above the number of such
3 support personnel for which funds were made available
4 during fiscal year 2012.

5 **SEC. 3. IMPROVING PORTS OF ENTRY FOR BORDER SECU-**
6 **RITY AND OTHER PURPOSES.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-
8 priated to the Administrator of the General Services Ad-
9 ministration \$1,000,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2014
10 through 2018 to make improvements to existing ports of
11 entry in the United States to improve border security and
12 for other purposes.

13 (b) PRIORITY.—In making improvements described
14 in subsection (a), the Administrator of the General Serv-
15 ices Administration, in coordination with the Secretary of
16 Homeland Security, shall give priority to the ports of entry
17 that the Administrator determines are in most need of re-
18 pair to improve border security and for other purposes in
19 accordance with port of entry infrastructure assessment
20 studies required in section 603 of title VI, division E, of
21 the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 (Public Law
22 110–161).

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