

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6742

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 26, 2018

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs

AN ACT

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to ensure that appropriate officers and agents of U.S. Customs and Border Protection are equipped with secure radios or other two-way communication devices, supported by system interoperability, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Secure Border Com-
3 munications Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. SECURE BORDER COMMUNICATIONS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle B of title IV of the
6 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 211 et seq.)
7 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

8 **“SEC. 420. SECURE BORDER COMMUNICATIONS.**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall ensure that
10 each U.S. Customs and Border Protection officer or agent,
11 if appropriate, is equipped with a secure radio or other
12 two-way communication device, supported by system inter-
13 operability, that allows each such officer or agent to com-
14 municate—

15 “(1) between ports of entry and inspection sta-
16 tions; and

17 “(2) with other Federal, State, Tribal, and local
18 law enforcement entities.

19 “(b) U.S. BORDER PATROL AGENTS.—The Secretary
20 shall ensure that each U.S. Border Patrol agent assigned
21 or required to patrol in remote mission critical locations,
22 and at border checkpoints, has a multi- or dual-band
23 encrypted portable radio.

24 “(c) COMMERCIAL MOBILE BROADBAND
25 CONNECTIVITY.—In carrying out subsection (b), the Sec-
26 retary shall acquire radios or other devices with the option

1 to connect to appropriate commercial mobile broadband
2 networks for deployment in areas where such networks en-
3 hance operations and are cost effective.

4 “(d) EMERGING COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES
5 CONSIDERED.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary
6 may evaluate new or emerging communications tech-
7 nologies to determine their suitability for the unique condi-
8 tions of border security operations.”.

9 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
10 in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is
11 amended by inserting after the item relating to section
12 419 the following new item:

“Sec. 420. Secure border communications.”.

Passed the House of Representatives September 25,
2018.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk.