

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 412

To provide a pay incentive for border patrol agents to complete emergency medical technician and paramedic training, to ensure that language interpretation services are available at all U.S. Border Patrol stations, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 7, 2019

Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. UDALL, and Ms. HARRIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To provide a pay incentive for border patrol agents to complete emergency medical technician and paramedic training, to ensure that language interpretation services are available at all U.S. Border Patrol stations, 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 TITLES.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Remote, Emergency,
5 Medical, Online Training, Telehealth, and EMT Act” or
6 the “REMOTE Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. MEDICAL TRAINING FOR BORDER PATROL AGENTS.**

2 (a) **DEFINED TERM.**—In this section, the term “chil-
3 dren” means individuals who have not attained 18 years
4 of age.

5 (b) **MEDICAL TRAINING.**—

6 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 411 of the Home-
7 land Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 211) is amend-
8 ed—

9 (A) in subsection (c)(17), by striking “sub-
10 section (l)” and inserting “subsections (l) and
11 (m)”;

12 (B) by redesignating subsections (m), (n),
13 (o), (p), (q), and (r) as subsections (n), (o), (p),
14 (q), (r), and (s), respectively; and

15 (C) by inserting after subsection (l) the
16 following:

17 “(m) **MEDICAL TRAINING FOR BORDER PATROL**
18 **AGENTS.**—

19 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—

20 “(A) **AVAILABILITY.**—Beginning not later
21 than 6 months after the date of the enactment
22 of this subsection, the Commissioner of U.S.
23 Customs and Border Protection shall make
24 available, at no cost to U.S. Border Patrol
25 agents selected for such training, emergency
26 medical technician (referred to in this sub-

1 section as ‘EMT’) and paramedic training in
2 each U.S. Border Patrol sector along the south-
3 ern land border of the United States. Such
4 training shall include pediatric medical training,
5 which shall utilize nationally recognized pedi-
6 atric training curricula that includes emergency
7 pediatric care.

8 “(B) USE OF OFFICIAL DUTY TIME.—A
9 U.S. Border Patrol agent shall be credited with
10 work time for any EMT or paramedic training
11 provided to such agent pursuant to subpara-
12 graph (A) in order to achieve or maintain an
13 EMT or paramedic certification.

14 “(C) LODGING AND PER DIEM.—Lodging
15 and per diem shall be made available to border
16 patrol agents attending training described in
17 subparagraph (B) if such training is not avail-
18 able at a location within commuting distance of
19 the agent’s residence or worksite.

20 “(D) SERVICE COMMITMENT.—Any U.S.
21 Border Patrol agent who completes a paramedic
22 certification preparation program pursuant to
23 subparagraph (A) shall—

1 “(i) complete 3 years of service as a
 2 U.S. Border Patrol agent following the
 3 completion of such training; or

4 “(ii) reimburse U.S. Customs and
 5 Border Protection in an amount equal to
 6 the product of—

7 “(I) the cost of providing such
 8 training to such agent; multiplied by

9 “(II) the percentage of the serv-
 10 ice required under clause (i) that the
 11 agent failed to complete.

12 “(2) INCREASE IN RATE OF PAY FOR BORDER
 13 PATROL MEDICAL CERTIFICATION.—

14 “(A) EMT CERTIFICATION.—A U.S. Bor-
 15 der Patrol agent who has completed EMT
 16 training pursuant to paragraph (1)(A) and has
 17 a current, State-issued or State-recognized cer-
 18 tification as an EMT shall receive, in addition
 19 to the pay to which the agent is otherwise enti-
 20 tled under this section, an amount equal to 5
 21 percent of such pay.

22 “(B) PARAMEDIC CERTIFICATION.—A U.S.
 23 Border Patrol agent who has completed para-
 24 medic training pursuant to paragraph (1)(A)
 25 and has a current, State-issued or State-recog-

nized certification as a paramedic shall receive, in addition to the pay to which the agent is otherwise entitled under this section (except for subparagraph (A)), an amount equal to 10 percent of such pay.

“(C) EXISTING CERTIFICATIONS.—A U.S. Border Patrol agent who did not participate in the training made available pursuant to paragraph (1)(A), but, as of the date of the enactment of the REMOTE Act, has a current State-issued or State-recognized EMT or paramedic certification, shall receive, in addition to the pay to which the agent is otherwise entitled under this section (except for subparagraph (A) or (B)), an amount equal to—

“(i) 5 percent of such pay for an EMT certification; and

“(ii) 10 percent of such pay for a paramedic certification.

“(3) AVAILABILITY OF MEDICALLY TRAINED BORDER PATROL AGENTS.—Not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of the REMOTE Act, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall—

“(A) ensure that—

1 “(i) U.S. Border Patrol agents with
2 current EMT or paramedic certifications
3 are stationed at each U.S. Border Patrol
4 sector and remote station along the south-
5 ern border to the greatest extent possible;

6 “(ii) 10 percent of all U.S. Border
7 Patrol agents have EMT certifications and
8 comprise not fewer than 10 percent of all
9 border patrol agents assigned to each U.S.
10 Border Patrol sector; and

11 “(iii) 1 percent of all U.S. Border Pa-
12 trol agents have paramedic certifications
13 and comprise not fewer than 1 percent of
14 all U.S. Border Patrol agents assigned to
15 each U.S. Border Patrol sector; and

16 “(B) in determining the assigned posts of
17 U.S. Border Patrol agents who have received
18 training under paragraph (1)(A), give priority
19 to remote stations and forward operating bases.

20 “(4) MEDICAL SUPPLIES.—

21 “(A) MINIMUM LIST.—The Commissioner
22 of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall
23 provide minimum medical supplies to each U.S.
24 Border Patrol agent with an EMT or para-
25 medic certification and to each U.S. Border Pa-

1 trol sector, including all remote stations and
 2 forward operating bases and for use while on
 3 patrol. Such supplies shall include—

4 “(i) supplies designed for children;

5 “(ii) first aid kits; and

6 “(iii) oral hydration, such as water.

7 “(B) CONSULTATION.—In developing the
 8 minimum list of medical supplies required
 9 under subparagraph (A), the Commissioner
 10 shall consult national organizations with exper-
 11 tise in emergency medical care, including emer-
 12 gency medical care of children.

13 “(5) MOTOR VEHICLES.—The Commissioner of
 14 U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall make
 15 available appropriate motor vehicles to U.S. Border
 16 Patrol agents with current EMT or paramedic cer-
 17 tifications to enable them to provide necessary emer-
 18 gency medical assistance.”.

19 (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
 20 There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as
 21 may be necessary to carry out section 5550(g) of
 22 title 5, United States Code, as added by paragraph
 23 (1).

24 (c) IDENTIFYING AND TREATING INDIVIDUALS EX-
 25 PERIENCING MEDICAL DISTRESS.—

1 (1) ONLINE TRAINING.—

2 (A) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date
3 that is 90 days after the date of the enactment
4 of this Act, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs
5 and Border Protection shall require all border
6 patrol agents and officers, including agents and
7 officers with EMT or paramedic certification, to
8 complete an online training program that meets
9 nationally recognized standards for the medical
10 care of children that will enable U.S. Border
11 Patrol agents and officers—

12 (i) to identify common signs of med-
13 ical distress in children; and

14 (ii) to ensure the timely transport of
15 sick or injured children to an appropriate
16 medical provider.

17 (B) CONTRACT.—In developing or selecting
18 an online training program under subparagraph
19 (A), the Commissioner may enter into a con-
20 tract with a national professional medical asso-
21 ciation of pediatric medical providers.

22 (2) VOICE ACCESS TO MEDICAL PROFES-
23 SIONALS.—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and
24 Border Protection shall ensure that all remote U.S.
25 Border Patrol stations, forward operating bases, and

1 remote ports of entry on the southern border have
2 24-hour voice access to a medical command physi-
3 cian whose board certification includes the ability to
4 perform this role or a mid-level health care provider
5 with pediatric training for consultations regarding
6 the medical needs of individuals, including children,
7 taken into custody near the United States border.
8 Access under this paragraph may be accomplished
9 through mobile phones, satellite mobile radios, or
10 other means prescribed by the Commissioner.

11 **SEC. 3. LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION SERVICES.**

12 The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Pro-
13 tection shall ensure that language interpretation services,
14 either in person or remotely through electronic technology,
15 are continuously available at all remote U.S. Border Pa-
16 trol stations, forward operating bases, and remote ports
17 of entry on the southern border for any language that is
18 commonly spoken by migrants seeking to enter the United
19 States through the southern border.

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