

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7074

To affirm the State of Texas’s right to implement operational protections along the southern border, to authorize the State to construct a physical border wall in areas where the international border is not adequately protected with physical barriers, and to allow reimbursement from the Federal Government.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 22, 2024

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To affirm the State of Texas’s right to implement operational protections along the southern border, to authorize the State to construct a physical border wall in areas where the international border is not adequately protected with physical barriers, and to allow reimbursement from the Federal Government.

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 “State of Texas Oper-
5 ational Protections Act” or the “STOP Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Certain sections of the southern border
4 within the State of Texas lack sufficient protection
5 posing a significant threat to the safety and security
6 of the State's residents.

7 (2) The Department of Justice stated that the
8 Federal Government has the primary authority to
9 regulate immigration and manage United States
10 international borders.

11 (3) Due to the lack of action by the Federal
12 Government, the State of Texas has been forced to
13 continually appropriate funds and provide protec-
14 tions to secure the southern border of the United
15 States.

16 (4) Since 2021, there have been over 6.7 million
17 illegal crossings at the southern border, which has
18 impacted Texans throughout the State.

19 (5) The Governor of Texas must have the capa-
20 bility to act and defend the State from the ongoing
21 invasion at the southern border.

22 **SEC. 3. STATE OPERATIONAL PROTECTIONS.**

23 (a) The State of Texas reserves the right to imple-
24 ment operational protections along the international bor-
25 der, including physical barriers, increased law enforcement
26 presence, surveillance technologies, and other measures

1 deemed necessary to enhance border security and stop ille-
2 gal crossings.

3 (b) The Texas Department of Public Safety shall col-
4 laborate with Federal, State, and local authorities to co-
5 ordinate and implement operational protections in a man-
6 ner consistent with State and Federal laws.

7 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION FOR BORDER WALL CONSTRUC-**
8 **TION.**

9 (a) The State of Texas is hereby authorized to plan,
10 design, and construct physical barriers, including but not
11 limited to walls, fences, and other structures, along sec-
12 tions of the international border that are deemed vulner-
13 able to illegal entry or other security risks by the Governor
14 of Texas.

15 (b) The Texas Department of Public Safety, in co-
16 ordination with relevant State agencies, is tasked with
17 identifying the specific areas in need of enhanced border
18 security measures.

19 **SEC. 5. REIMBURSEMENT.**

20 (a) The State of Texas may seek reimbursement from
21 the Federal Government for costs associated with con-
22 structing physical barriers, as well as implementing oper-
23 ational protections along the international border.

24 (b) The Texas Department of Public Safety shall sub-
25 mit requests for reimbursement to appropriate Federal

1 agencies and work diligently to secure Federal funds to
2 offset the expenses incurred by the State in carrying out
3 the provisions of this Act.

4 **SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

5 This Act shall take effect 60 days after enactment
6 of this Act.

