

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 3571

To limit the authority of U.S. Border Patrol personnel to their traditional border security duties, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 18, 2025

Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. SCHIFF) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

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## A BILL

To limit the authority of U.S. Border Patrol personnel to their traditional border security duties, 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 “Keeping Our Agents  
5 on the Line Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Senate finds the following:

8 (1) For many years, representatives of the U.S.  
9 Border Patrol have requested to return to their tra-

1       ditional border security duties on the line to avoid  
2       certain administrative tasks, such as processing asy-  
3       lum seekers and children.

4               (2) During 2025, U.S. Border Patrol—

5                       (A) has apparently been delegated nation-  
6                       wide interior arrest authority;

7                       (B) as a result of nationwide interior ar-  
8                       rest authority, has duplicated the functions and  
9                       purpose of U.S. Immigration and Customs En-  
10                      forcement, while failing to receive the commen-  
11                      surate training;

12                     (C) has made numerous arrests in the inte-  
13                     rior of the United States, many without a judi-  
14                     cially authorized warrant, including arrests of  
15                     United States citizens; and

16                     (D) is no longer limiting its patrols within  
17                     a reasonable distance from the line at the  
18                     United States land border.

19               (3) Many violent encounters recorded by United  
20       States citizens and residents have involved U.S. Bor-  
21       der Patrol agents who—

22                       (A) are primarily trained to patrol the line  
23                       at the United States border; and

1 (B) are not sufficiently trained to manage  
2 complex criminal investigations typically han-  
3 dled by other Federal law enforcement agencies.

4 (4) Despite this lack of training, U.S. Border  
5 Patrol agents have been roaming the interior of the  
6 United States and arresting United States residents,  
7 including United States citizens.

8 **SEC. 3. REAFFIRMING THE 25-MILE LIMITATION FOR U.S.**  
9 **BORDER PATROL OFFICERS AND EMPLOY-**  
10 **EES.**

11 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

12 (1) IMMIGRATION OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES  
13 OF U.S. BORDER PATROL.—The term “immigration  
14 officers and employees of U.S. Border Patrol”  
15 means any employee, contractor, or detailee who per-  
16 forms services for U.S. Border Patrol.

17 (2) REASONABLE DISTANCE.—The term “rea-  
18 sonable distance” means a distance not greater than  
19 25 miles from any United States international land  
20 border or territorial sea.

21 (b) SPECIAL RULES FOR U.S. BORDER PATROL.—  
22 No authority, power, or permission granted under section  
23 287 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.  
24 1357), may be exercised by immigration officers and em-

1 ployees of U.S. Border Patrol beyond a reasonable dis-  
2 tance.

3 (c) PROHIBITION ON DELEGATION.—Notwith-  
4 standing any other provision of law, immigration officers  
5 and employees of U.S. Border Patrol may not be dele-  
6 gated, deputized, or granted any authority to operate be-  
7 yond a reasonable distance unless such authority is grant-  
8 ed based upon—

9 (1) a lawful request made by an appropriate  
10 State or local official to an immigration officer or  
11 employee of U.S. Border Patrol, in accordance with  
12 State or local law, to assist in an emergency situa-  
13 tion in which lives are in immediate or imminent  
14 danger; or

15 (2) the President’s declaration of a major dis-  
16 aster under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford  
17 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42  
18 U.S.C. 5170).

19 **SEC. 4. CHECKPOINT AND ARREST DATA COLLECTION AND**  
20 **REPORTING.**

21 (a) CHECKPOINT DATA.—Not later than 90 days  
22 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commis-  
23 sioner for U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall—

24 (1) establish milestones for determining the fea-  
25 sibility of a checkpoint performance model that al-

1        lows U.S. Border Patrol to compare apprehensions  
2        and seizures to the level of illegal activity passing  
3        undetected through the checkpoint;

4            (2) post the findings and supporting data col-  
5        lected pursuant to paragraph (1) on a publicly acces-  
6        sible website not less frequently than annually;

7            (3) establish internal controls for managing the  
8        oversight of the accuracy, consistency, and complete-  
9        ness of checkpoint performance data; and

10           (4) publicly report on the total number of those  
11        subjected to an encounter at a U.S. Border Patrol  
12        checkpoint, disaggregated by the number of United  
13        States citizens, lawful permanent residents, and  
14        aliens.

15        (b) ARREST DATA.—Not later than 30 days after the  
16        date of the enactment of this Act, the Commissioner for  
17        U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall—

18            (1) document and publicly report on the num-  
19        ber of agents operating in the interior of the United  
20        States;

21            (2) provide detailed information regarding each  
22        such agent’s training with respect to conducting  
23        searches and seizures in compliance with the Fourth  
24        Amendment to the Constitution of the United  
25        States; and

1           (3) document and publicly report on the dis-  
2           position of each interaction such agent has while in  
3           the interior with a United States citizen, a lawful  
4           permanent resident, or another alien, including  
5           whether such person was arrested, detained,  
6           stopped, or charged with a crime or a civil offense.

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