

**SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS**  
**Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute to H.R. 915, the “Jaime Zapata Border Enforcement Security Task Force Act”:**

**SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.**

Sets forth that the bill may be cited as the “Jaime Zapata Border Enforcement Security Task Force Act”.

**SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND DECLARATION OF PURPOSES.**

Sets forth findings of Congress regarding: (1) the Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) mission to protect the United States and Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s (ICE) responsibilities regarding the enforcement of laws related to securing the border and combating criminal smuggling; (2) the surge in border crime and violence in recent years along Mexico’s northern border with the United States due to intense competition between Mexican drug cartels and criminal smuggling organizations; (3) the challenges law enforcement agencies at the United States northern border face from transnational smuggling organizations; (4) the creation of the Border Enforcement Security Task Force (BEST) initiative to address border security threats; (5) the composition of domestic agencies and components that form BEST teams; and (6) the composition of foreign law enforcement agencies that form BEST teams.

**SEC. 3. BORDER ENFORCEMENT SECURITY TASK FORCE.**

Authorizes the establishment of the BEST program within ICE.

Sets forth that the purpose of the BEST program is to establish units to enhance border security by addressing and reducing border security threats and violence by facilitating collaboration among Federal, State, local, tribal, and foreign law enforcement agencies and enhancing information-sharing.

Establishes that BEST units may be comprised of personnel from ICE, the United States Customs and Border Protection, the United States Coast Guard, and other Federal, State, foreign, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies. Authorizes the Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through the Assistant Secretary for ICE (Assistant Secretary), to establish BEST units in jurisdictions where such units can contribute to the BEST program’s missions. Requires the Assistant Secretary to consider the following factors prior to establishing a BEST unit: (1) whether the area is significantly impacted by cross-border threats; (2) the availability of Federal, State, local, tribal, and foreign law enforcement resources to participate in the BEST unit; (3) the extent to which border security threats are having a significant harmful impact in the jurisdiction; and (4) whether an Integrated Border Enforcement Team already exists in the area.

Authorizes the Secretary of Homeland Security to obligate such sums as are appropriated for the BEST program, direct assignment of Federal personnel to the BEST program, and take other actions to assist State, local, tribal, and foreign jurisdictions to participate in the BEST program.

Requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit to Congress a report on the effectiveness of the BEST program in enhancing border security and reducing trafficking and smuggling not later than 180 days after enactment and annually thereafter.

Authorizes to be appropriated to the Secretary of Homeland Security \$10 million for each of fiscal years 2012 through 2016 to establish and operate the BEST program and investigate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals engaged in trafficking, smuggling and other illegal activity along and across the international borders of the United States.