



(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To affirm the State of Texas' 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.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

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**A BILL**

To affirm the State of Texas' 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “State of Texas Oper-  
3 ational Protections Act” or the “STOP Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Certain sections of the southern border  
7 within the State of Texas lack sufficient protection  
8 posing a significant threat to the safety and security  
9 of the State’s residents.

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

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

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

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

1   **SEC. 3. STATE OPERATIONAL PROTECTIONS.**

2           (a) The State of Texas reserves the right to imple-  
3   ment operational protections along the international bor-  
4   der, including physical barriers, increased law enforcement  
5   presence, surveillance technologies, and other measures  
6   deemed necessary to enhance border security and stop ille-  
7   gal crossings.

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

12   **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION FOR BORDER WALL CONSTRUC-**  
13                           **TION.**

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

20           (b) The Texas Department of Public Safety, in co-  
21   ordination with relevant State agencies, is tasked with  
22   identifying the specific areas in need of enhanced border  
23   security measures.

24   **SEC. 5. REIMBURSEMENT.**

25           (a) The State of Texas may seek reimbursement from  
26   the Federal Government for costs associated with con-

1 structing physical barriers, as well as implementing oper-  
2 ational protections along the international border.

3 (b) The Texas Department of Public Safety shall sub-  
4 mit requests for reimbursement to appropriate Federal  
5 agencies and work diligently to secure Federal funds to  
6 offset the expenses incurred by the State in carrying out  
7 the provisions of this Act.

8 **SEC. 6. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

9 This Act shall take effect 60 days after enactment  
10 of this Act.