

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMM. PRINT 118–36
OFFERED BY MR. VASQUEZ OF NEW MEXICO

Add at the end of subtitle C of title XVII the following:

1 **SEC. 1748. JOINT TASK FORCE TO COMBAT OPIOID TRAF-**
2 **FICKING.**

3 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—Subsection (b) of section 708
4 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 348) is
5 amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (2)(A), by adding at the end
7 the following new clause:

8 “(iv) Enhancing the integration of the
9 Department’s border security operations to
10 detect, interdict, disrupt, and prevent nar-
11 cotics, such as fentanyl and other synthetic
12 opioids, from entering the United States.”;

13 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (9) through
14 (13) as paragraphs (11) through (15), respectively;
15 and

16 (3) by inserting after paragraph (8) the fol-
17 lowing new paragraphs:

18 “(9) ENGAGEMENT WITH THE PRIVATE SEC-
19 TOR.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director of a
2 Joint Task Force may engage with representa-
3 tives from a private sector organization for the
4 purpose of carrying out the mission of such
5 Joint Task Force, and any such engagement
6 shall not be subject to chapter 10 of title 5,
7 United States Code (commonly referred to as
8 the ‘Federal Advisory Committee Act’).

9 “(B) ASSISTANCE FROM PRIVATE SEC-
10 TOR.—

11 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding
12 subsection (b)(1), the Secretary, with the
13 agreement of a private sector organization,
14 may arrange for the temporary assignment
15 of an employee of such organization to a
16 Joint Task Force in accordance with this
17 paragraph.

18 “(ii) AGREEMENT.—The Secretary
19 shall provide for a written agreement be-
20 tween the Department, the private sector
21 organization concerned, and the employee
22 concerned regarding the terms and condi-
23 tions of the assignment of such employee
24 under this paragraph.

1 “(C) NO FINANCIAL LIABILITY.—Any
2 agreement under this paragraph shall require
3 the private sector organization concerned to be
4 responsible for all costs associated with the as-
5 signment of an employee under this paragraph.

6 “(D) DURATION.—An assignment under
7 this paragraph may, at any time and for any
8 reason, be terminated by the Secretary or the
9 private sector organization concerned and shall
10 be for a total period of not more than two
11 years.

12 “(10) COLLABORATION WITH TASK FORCES
13 OUTSIDE DHS.—The Secretary may enter into a
14 memorandum of understanding by which a Joint
15 Task Force established under this section to carry
16 out any purpose specified in paragraph (2)(A) and
17 any other Federal, State, local, Tribal, territorial, or
18 international entity or task force established for a
19 similar purpose may collaborate for the purpose of
20 carrying out the mission of such Joint Task Force.”.

21 (b) NOTIFICATION; REPORTING.—

22 (1) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 90 days
23 after the date of the enactment of this section, the
24 Secretary of Homeland Security shall—

1 (A) make a determination regarding
2 whether to establish a Joint Task Force under
3 section 708 of the Homeland Security Act of
4 2002 to carry out the purpose specified in
5 clause (iv) of subsection (b)(2)(A) of such sec-
6 tion, as added by subsection (a) of this section;
7 and

8 (B) submit to the Committee on Homeland
9 Security of the House of Representatives and
10 the Committee on Homeland Security and Gov-
11 ernmental Affairs of the Senate written notifi-
12 cation of such determination, including, if such
13 determination is in the negative, information on
14 the basis for such negative determination.

15 (2) REPORTING.—If the Secretary of Homeland
16 Security establishes a Joint Task Force under sec-
17 tion 708 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to
18 carry out the purpose specified in clause (iv) of sub-
19 section (b)(2)(A) of such section, as added by sub-
20 section (a) of this section, the Secretary shall—

21 (A) beginning with the first report re-
22 quired under subsection (b)(6)(F) of such sec-
23 tion 708, include with respect to such a Joint
24 Task Force—

1 (i) a gap analysis of funding, per-
2 sonnel, technology, or other resources
3 needed in order to detect, interdict, dis-
4 rupt, and prevent narcotics, such as
5 fentanyl and other synthetic opioids, from
6 entering the United States; and

7 (ii) a description of collaboration pur-
8 suant to paragraph (10) of subsection (b)
9 of such section (as added by subsection (a)
10 of this section) between such a Joint Task
11 Force and any other Federal, State, local,
12 Tribal, territorial, or international task
13 force, including the United States Postal
14 Service and the United States Postal In-
15 spection Service; and

16 (B) in each report required under para-
17 graph (11)(C) of subsection (b) of section 708
18 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as re-
19 designated by subsection (a) of this section, an
20 assessment of the activities of such a Joint
21 Task Force, including an evaluation of whether
22 such Joint Task Force has enhanced integra-
23 tion of the Department of Homeland Security's
24 efforts, established any unique capabilities, or
25 otherwise enhanced operational effectiveness,

1 coordination, or information sharing to detect,
2 interdict, disrupt, and prevent narcotics, such
3 as fentanyl and other synthetic opioids, from
4 entering the United States.

