

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6619

To prohibit the Department of Justice from bringing a civil action against a State under section 9 or 10 of the Act of March 3, 1899, for certain border security measures, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 6, 2023

Mr. CLOUD (for himself, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BABIN, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. LAMALFA, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. ROY, Ms. VAN DUYNÉ, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. OGLES, Mr. DAVIDSON, and Mr. FRY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To prohibit the Department of Justice from bringing a civil action against a State under section 9 or 10 of the Act of March 3, 1899, for certain border security measures, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Preventing Aliens
3 Through Rivers Or Land Act” or the “PATROL Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON CIVIL ACTION FOR CERTAIN BOR-**
5 **DER SECURITY MEASURES.**

6 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Attorney General may not
7 bring or maintain a civil action (including an action that
8 is pending on the date of enactment of this Act) under
9 section 9 or 10 of the Act of March 3, 1899 (33 U.S.C.
10 401; 403), against a State for any measure undertaken
11 by the State to build, construct, erect, or otherwise install
12 a barrier along the international border of the State for
13 the purpose of—

14 (1) preventing aliens from entering the State in
15 violation of the immigration laws; or

16 (2) protecting the territory of the State.

17 (b) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

18 (1) **ALIEN.**—The term “alien” has the meaning
19 given such term in section 101 of the Immigration
20 and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

21 (2) **BARRIER.**—The term “barrier” means any
22 physical structure intended to secure the border, in-
23 cluding a wall, fence, or floating buoy.

24 (3) **IMMIGRATION LAWS.**—The term “immigra-
25 tion laws” has the meaning given such term in sec-

1 tion 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8
2 U.S.C. 1101).

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