

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2152

To require a study and report on Coast Guard interdiction of illicit drugs
in the transit zones, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 17, 2019

Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) introduced the following
bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To require a study and report on Coast Guard interdiction
of illicit drugs in the transit zones, 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. STUDY AND REPORT ON COAST GUARD INTER-**
4 **DICTION OF ILLICIT DRUGS IN THE TRANSIT**
5 **ZONES.**

6 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
7 ings:

8 (1) The Coast Guard seizes an average of 1,221
9 pounds of cocaine and 85 pounds of marijuana each
10 day in the transit zones of the Eastern Pacific

1 Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and Southern maritime bor-
2 der approaches.

3 (2) The Joint Interagency Task Force–South
4 (JIATF–South) estimates that it has a spectrum of
5 actionable intelligence on more than 80 percent of
6 drug movements into the United States from Central
7 America and South America.

8 (3) The Coast Guard must balance asset alloca-
9 tion across 11 statutory missions. As such, the
10 Coast Guard interdicts less than 10 percent of mari-
11 time non-commercial smuggling of illicit drugs into
12 the United States from Central America and South
13 America.

14 (4) In 2017, the Government Accountability Of-
15 fice recommended that the Commandant of the
16 Coast Guard—

17 (A) develop new performance goals relating
18 to the interdiction of illicit drugs smuggled into
19 the United States, or describe the manner in
20 which existing goals are sufficient;

21 (B) report such goals to the public;

22 (C) assess the extent to which limitations
23 in performance data with respect to such goals
24 are documented;

1 (D) document measurable corrective ac-
2 tions and implementation time frames with re-
3 spect to such goals; and

4 (E) document efforts to monitor implemen-
5 tation of such corrective actions.

6 (b) STUDY.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in
7 coordination with the Secretary of Defense and the heads
8 of other relevant Federal agencies, shall conduct a study
9 in order to identify gaps in resources that contribute to
10 low interdiction rates for maritime non-commercial smug-
11 gling of illicit drugs into the United States from Central
12 America and South America despite having actionable in-
13 telligence on more than 80 percent of drug movements in
14 the transit zones of the Eastern Pacific Ocean, Caribbean
15 Sea, and Southern maritime border approaches.

16 (c) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date
17 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland
18 Security shall submit to the Committee on Commerce,
19 Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Com-
20 mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House
21 of Representatives a report on the results of the study
22 under subsection (b).

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