

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To strengthen homeland security by expanding Urban Areas Security Initiative grant eligibility criteria to promote cooperation with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and to advance election security protections.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. SCOTT of Florida introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To strengthen homeland security by expanding Urban Areas Security Initiative grant eligibility criteria to promote cooperation with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and to advance election security protections.

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. SHORT TITLES.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Unifying American Se-  
5       curity Interests Act” or the “UASI Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds the following:

1           (1) The Urban Areas Security Initiative pro-  
2           vides critical funding to high-risk urban areas to en-  
3           hance preparedness against terrorism and other  
4           threats under the Homeland Security Grant Pro-  
5           gram.

6           (2) Effective border security and immigration  
7           enforcement are integral to national homeland secu-  
8           rity, requiring collaboration between Federal, State,  
9           local, Tribal, and territorial entities.

10          (3) The fiscal year 2025 Homeland Security  
11          Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity es-  
12          tablished National Priority Areas to address emerg-  
13          ing threats, including support for border crisis re-  
14          sponse through cooperation with U.S. Immigration  
15          and Customs Enforcement.

16          (4) Codifying the requirements referred to in  
17          paragraphs (1) through (3) will ensure consistent  
18          application and prevent future circumvention  
19          through administrative or judicial actions.

20       **SEC. 3. ELIGIBILITY FOR URBAN AREAS SECURITY INITIA-**  
21                               **TIVE GRANTS.**

22          Section 2008 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002  
23       (6 U.S.C. 609) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
24       lowing:

1       “(h) ELIGIBILITY FOR URBAN AREAS SECURITY INI-  
2       TIATIVE GRANTS.—

3               “(1) NATIONAL PRIORITY AREAS REQUIRE-  
4       MENT.—As a condition of eligibility for a grant  
5       under the Urban Areas Security Initiative, each ap-  
6       plicant (including State administrative agencies and  
7       eligible urban areas) shall demonstrate in its appli-  
8       cation that it will allocate not less than 30 percent  
9       of the total award amount across the following Na-  
10      tional Priority Areas:

11               “(A) Enhancing cybersecurity.

12               “(B) Enhancing the protection of soft tar-  
13      gets and crowded places.

14               “(C) Supporting Homeland Security Task  
15      Forces and Fusion Centers.

16               “(D) Enhancing election security.

17               “(E) Supporting border crisis response and  
18      enforcement.

19               “(2) MINIMUM ALLOCATIONS.—Of the amount  
20      required to be allocated under paragraph (1)—

21               “(A) not less than 3 percent of the total  
22      award shall be dedicated to activities in support  
23      of enhancing election security; and

24               “(B) not less than 10 percent of the total  
25      award shall be dedicated to activities that sup-

1           porting border crisis response and enforcement  
2           , which shall include—

3                   “(i) participating in the program au-  
4                   thorized under section 287(g) of the Immi-  
5                   gration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.  
6                   1357(g)), including training and author-  
7                   izing local officers to perform immigration  
8                   enforcement functions such as identifying  
9                   and processing removable noncitizens in  
10                  their custody;

11                  “(ii) cooperating with detainers re-  
12                  ceived from U.S. Immigration and Cus-  
13                  toms Enforcement and other jurisdictional  
14                  responsibilities related to immigration en-  
15                  forcement;

16                  “(iii) training for law enforcement  
17                  personnel in immigration law, civil rights  
18                  protections, and procedures under the pro-  
19                  gram referred to in clause (i);

20                  “(iv) developing information-sharing  
21                  platforms or secure networks between local  
22                  agencies and U.S. Immigration and Cus-  
23                  toms Enforcement;

1                   “(v) procuring technology for screen-  
2                   ing, detection, and communications to sup-  
3                   port immigration enforcement;

4                   “(vi) participating in joint training ex-  
5                   ercises with U.S. Immigration and Cus-  
6                   toms Enforcement to improve coordination;  
7                   and

8                   “(vii) staffing and operational over-  
9                   time directly tied to activities described in  
10                  clause (i), such as expanding screening in  
11                  correctional facilities.

12                  “(3) INVESTMENT JUSTIFICATION AND COORDI-  
13                  NATION.—Each applicant for a grant under the  
14                  Urban Areas Security Initiative shall submit to the  
15                  Secretary of Homeland Security a dedicated invest-  
16                  ment justification for projects that supporting bor-  
17                  der crisis response and enforcement that details  
18                  alignment with border security goals. All such  
19                  projects shall require coordination with U.S. Immi-  
20                  gration and Customs Enforcement field offices.

21                  “(4) COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATIONS.—Each ap-  
22                  plicant for a grant under the Urban Areas Security  
23                  Initiative shall certify to the Secretary of Homeland  
24                  Security that funded activities will comply with all  
25                  applicable Department of Homeland Security terms,

1 including prohibitions on benefitting or incentivizing  
2 illegal immigration.

3 “(5) NONCOMPLIANCE PENALTIES.—Failure of  
4 a grantee to meet the minimum allocations required  
5 under this subsection may result in the Secretary of  
6 Homeland Security—

7 “(A) denying eligibility for a grant under  
8 the Urban Areas Security Initiative;

9 “(B) placing a hold on up to 30 percent of  
10 the award until such failure is remedied; or

11 “(C) imposing another remedy, including  
12 award termination or debarment of the grantee  
13 from future grants.

14 “(6) APPLICABILITY.—The requirements under  
15 this subsection shall apply to all Urban Areas Secu-  
16 rity Initiative grants awarded for fiscal year 2027 or  
17 for any fiscal year thereafter.”.

18 **SEC. 4. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

19 Nothing in this Act may be construed to preempt  
20 State or local laws, except to the extent necessary to en-  
21 sure compliance with the conditions for Federal grant  
22 funding established under section 2008(h) of the Home-  
23 land Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 609(h)), as added  
24 by section 3.