

H.R. 1417, The Border Security Results Act

- Introduced by Homeland Security Committee Chairman Mike McCaul
- Passed the Homeland Security Committee on May 15, 2013, on a unanimous voice vote
- H.R. 1417 is virtually identical to the border language in the original Senate Gang of Eight bill, which was roundly criticized as being woefully inadequate on border security. The main difference is that the McCaul bill requires the GAO to evaluate the various plans DHS has to submit.
- Despite the fact that H.R. 1417 actually weakens current law, it is being touted as the solution to border security, and is intended to provide cover to Republicans to later vote for amnesty, much like the Corker-Hoeven “border surge” amendment.

CURRENT LAW	BORDER SECURITY RESULTS ACT
The Secretary of Homeland Security “shall take all actions the Secretary determines necessary and appropriate to achieve and maintain operational control over the entire international land and maritime borders of the United States.” — <i>Secure Fence Act of 2006</i>	The Secretary of Homeland Security must submit “a comprehensive strategy for gaining and maintaining situational awareness and operational control of high traffic areas” within 2 years, and “operational control along the southwest border” within 5 years.
Operational Control: Prevention of ALL unlawful entries. — <i>Secure Fence Act of 2006</i>	Operational Control: 90% effectiveness rate, which is determined by DHS <i>based on its own estimates</i> of those who evade detection and apprehension.
Biometric entry-exit system required at ALL ports of entry. — <i>2004 Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act (which streamlined 5 previously passed pieces of legislation starting with IIRIRA in 1996), the 2007 9/11 Commission Implementation Act</i>	A plan to implement biometric exit capability at ports of entry, unless the Secretary determines such a system is not feasible, in which case he or she must submit a plan to implement an alternative program “to provide the same level of security.” This effectively guts the entire entry-exit system, even though an estimated 40 percent of illegal aliens are visa overstays.

- What happens under H.R. 1417 if DHS fails to meet (or the President decides to ignore) the weaker standards the bill sets out? DHS simply has to submit a report to Congress on why it failed (or ignored). That’s it.
- It is no wonder that Sheila Jackson Lee is a cosponsor or that Nancy Pelosi and House Democrats decided to include H.R. 1417 *in its entirety* in their version of comprehensive amnesty (H.R. 15).