



## CONGRESSMAN **CLAY HIGGINS**

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### **DHS Opioid Detection Resilience Act of 2019**

#### Summary

- The goal of the DHS Opioid Detection Resilience Act of 2019 is to ensure U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers, agents, and other personnel have adequate synthetic opioid detection equipment and that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has a centralized database and process to update newly identified spectra or drug analogs to improve synthetic opioid detection capability across the Department.
- The bill requires the Commissioner of CBP to implement a strategy within 180 days of enactment to ensure CBP chemical screening devices are able to identify narcotics in an operational environment with purity levels of 10 percent or less and require the testing of new devices to understand their ability and limitations of identifying purity levels before procurement.
  - According to the 2018 Drug Enforcement Administration National Drug Threat Assessment, fentanyl seized at the southwest border tend to be less than 10 percent pure. This bill would require the gap in detection capability to be filled.
- The DHS Opioid Detection Resilience Act of 2019 also requires DHS to implement a plan for the long-term development of a centralized spectral database for chemical screening devices. The plan must (1) include how new spectra will be collected, stored, and distributed for operations; and (2) identify responsible parties for updating and maintaining the database.
  - Chemical screening devices are only as robust as their libraries, and with new analogs of synthetic opioids being discovered regularly, it is important for the Department to keep an updated library to push out to the field.
- The bill was introduced on October 18, 2019 by **Border Security, Facilitation, and Operations Subcommittee Ranking Member Clay Higgins (R-LA)** with multiple bipartisan original cosponsors.

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