



Cruz 1st Degree 1 to S. 2043
Revised

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To provide for the timely issuance of Presidential permits to construct, maintain, and operate international bridges.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—118th Cong., 1st Sess.

S. _____

To provide for certain authorities of the Department of State, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. CRUZ

Viz:

1 At the end of title VII, add the following:

2 **SEC. 7. PERMITTING FOR INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES.**

3 The International Bridge Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 535
4 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 5 the fol-
5 lowing:

6 **“SEC. 6. PERMITTING FOR INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES.**

7 **“(a) DEFINITIONS.—**In this section:

8 **“(1) ELIGIBLE APPLICANT.—**The term ‘eligible
9 applicant’ means an entity that has submitted an
10 application for a Presidential permit during the pe-

1 riod beginning on December 1, 2020, and ending on
2 December 31, 2024, for any of the following:

3 “(A) 1 or more international bridges in
4 Webb County, Texas.

5 “(B) An international bridge in Cameron
6 County, Texas.

7 “(C) An international bridge in Maverick
8 County, Texas.

9 “(2) PRESIDENTIAL PERMIT.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘Presi-
11 dential permit’ means—

12 “(i) an approval by the President to
13 construct, maintain, and operate an inter-
14 national bridge under section 4; or

15 “(ii) an approval by the President to
16 construct, maintain, and operate an inter-
17 national bridge pursuant to a process de-
18 scribed in Executive Order 13867 (84 Fed.
19 Reg. 15491; relating to Issuance of Per-
20 mits With Respect to Facilities and Land
21 Transportation Crossings at the Inter-
22 national Boundaries of the United States)
23 (or any successor Executive Order).

24 “(B) INCLUSION.—The term ‘Presidential
25 permit’ includes an amendment to an approval

1 described in clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph
2 (A).

3 “(3) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means
4 the Secretary of State.

5 “(b) APPLICATION.—An eligible applicant for a Pres-
6 idential permit to construct, maintain, and operate an
7 international bridge shall submit an application for the
8 permit to the Secretary.

9 “(c) RECOMMENDATION.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days
11 after the date on which the Secretary receives an ap-
12 plication under subsection (b), the Secretary shall
13 make a recommendation to the President—

14 “(A) to grant the Presidential permit; or

15 “(B) to deny the Presidential permit.

16 “(2) CONSIDERATION.—The sole basis for a
17 recommendation under paragraph (1) shall be
18 whether the international bridge is in the foreign
19 policy interests of the United States.

20 “(d) PRESIDENTIAL ACTION.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The President shall grant
22 or deny the Presidential permit for an application
23 under subsection (b) by not later than 60 days after
24 the earlier of—

1 “(A) the date on which the Secretary
2 makes a recommendation under subsection
3 (c)(1); and

4 “(B) the date on which the Secretary is re-
5 quired to make a recommendation under sub-
6 section (c)(1).

7 “(2) NO ACTION.—

8 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subpara-
9 graph (B), if the President does not grant or
10 deny the Presidential permit for an application
11 under subsection (b) by the deadline described
12 in paragraph (1), the Presidential permit shall
13 be considered to have been granted as of that
14 deadline.

15 “(B) REQUIREMENT.—As a condition on a
16 Presidential permit considered to be granted
17 under subparagraph (A), the eligible applicant
18 shall complete all applicable environmental doc-
19 uments required pursuant to Public Law 91-
20 190 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

21 “(e) DOCUMENT REQUIREMENTS.—Notwithstanding
22 any other provision of law, the Secretary shall not require
23 an eligible applicant for a Presidential permit—

24 “(1) to include in the application under sub-
25 section (b) environmental documents prepared pur-

1 suant to Public Law 91–190 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et
2 seq.); or

3 “(2) to have completed any environmental re-
4 view under Public Law 91–190 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et
5 seq.) prior to the President granting a Presidential
6 permit under subsection (d).

7 “(f) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this
8 section—

9 “(1) prohibits the President from granting a
10 Presidential permit conditioned on the eligible appli-
11 cant completing all environmental documents pursu-
12 ant to Public Law 91–190 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

13 “(2) prohibits the Secretary from requesting a
14 list of all permits and approvals from Federal, State,
15 and local agencies that the eligible applicant believes
16 are required in connection with the international
17 bridge, or a brief description of how those permits
18 and approvals will be acquired; or

19 “(3) exempts an eligible applicant from the re-
20 quirement to complete all environmental documents
21 pursuant to Public Law 91–190 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et
22 seq.) prior to construction of an international
23 bridge.”.