

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
79R2671 CLE-D

S.C.R. 2
By: Staples
Transportation & Homeland Security
2/25/2005
As Filed

AUTHOR'S/SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

Created in 1999 to help state and local jurisdictions prepare for a national emergency, the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) is a repository of pharmaceuticals and medical supplies administered jointly by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Currently, if an act of bioterrorism occurs within Mexico near the United States border, it is up to each U.S. border state, including Texas, to request and deploy the SNS across the border to protect the citizens of the state. Procedures for deploying SNS assets require the affected state governor's office to request deployment from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or DHS. The assets are transferred to state and local authorities once they arrive at the designated receiving and storage site in the affected state.

Deployment, which may include a mass antibiotic dispensing operation, requires substantial state and local resources to receive, secure, and distribute SNS assets. Staging and dispensing the assets in another country requires a coordinated, comprehensive approach that is best addressed by the federal government. The Homeland Security Act of 2002 charged DHS with defining the goals and performance requirements of the SNS program as well as managing the actual deployment of assets. Critical to the success of this initiative is ensuring capacity at the federal level to respond to binational public health emergencies.

RESOLVED

That the 79th Legislature of the State of Texas, hereby respectfully request the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to provide for federal deployment of the Strategic National Stockpile within Mexico to protect U.S. border states.

That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the speaker of the house of representatives and the president of the senate of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to the congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.