

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1893

To direct the Transportation Security Administration to develop a transportation security preparedness plan in the event of a communicable disease outbreak, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 12, 2021

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. KATKO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

A BILL

To direct the Transportation Security Administration to develop a transportation security preparedness plan in the event of a communicable disease outbreak, and for other purposes.

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 TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Transportation Secu-
5 rity Preparedness Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. SURVEY OF THE TRANSPORTATION SECURITY AD-**
2 **MINISTRATION WORKFORCE REGARDING**
3 **COVID-19 RESPONSE.**

4 (a) SURVEY.—Not later than 1 year after the date
5 of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the
6 Transportation Security Administration (referred to in
7 this section as the “Administrator”), in consultation with
8 the labor organization certified as the exclusive represent-
9 ative of full- and part-time non-supervisory Administra-
10 tion personnel carrying out screening functions under sec-
11 tion 44901 of title 49, United States Code, shall conduct
12 a survey of the Transportation Security Administration
13 (referred to in this section as the “Administration”) work-
14 force regarding the Administration’s response to the
15 COVID-19 pandemic. Such survey shall be conducted in
16 a manner that allows for the greatest practicable level of
17 workforce participation.

18 (b) CONTENTS.—In conducting the survey required
19 under subsection (a), the Administrator shall solicit feed-
20 back on the following:

21 (1) The Administration’s communication and
22 collaboration with the Administration’s workforce re-
23 garding the Administration’s response to the
24 COVID-19 pandemic and efforts to mitigate and
25 monitor transmission of COVID-19 among its work-
26 force, including through—

1 (A) providing employees with personal pro-
2 tective equipment and mandating its use;

3 (B) modifying screening procedures and
4 Administration operations to reduce trans-
5 mission among officers and passengers and en-
6 suring compliance with such changes;

7 (C) adjusting policies regarding scheduling,
8 leave, and telework;

9 (D) outreach as a part of contact tracing
10 when an employee has tested positive for
11 COVID–19; and

12 (E) encouraging COVID–19 vaccinations
13 and efforts to assist employees that seek to be
14 vaccinated such as communicating the avail-
15 ability of duty time for travel to vaccination
16 sites and recovery from vaccine side effects.

17 (2) Any other topic determined appropriate by
18 the Administrator.

19 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after com-
20 pleting the survey required under subsection (a), the Ad-
21 ministration shall provide a report summarizing the re-
22 sults of the survey to the Committee on Homeland Secu-
23 rity of the House of Representatives and the Committee
24 on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

1 **SEC. 3. TRANSPORTATION SECURITY PREPAREDNESS**

2 **PLAN.**

3 (a) **PLAN REQUIRED.**—Section 114 of title 49,
4 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
5 following new subsection:

6 “(x) **TRANSPORTATION SECURITY PREPAREDNESS**
7 **PLAN.**—

8 “(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than two years
9 after the date of the enactment of this subsection,
10 the Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through
11 the Administrator, in coordination with the Chief
12 Medical Officer of the Department of Homeland Se-
13 curity and in consultation with the partners identi-
14 fied under paragraphs (3)(A)(i) through (3)(A)(iv),
15 shall develop a transportation security preparedness
16 plan to address the event of a communicable disease
17 outbreak. The Secretary, acting through the Admin-
18 istrator, shall ensure such plan aligns with relevant
19 Federal plans and strategies for communicable dis-
20 ease outbreaks.

21 “(2) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In developing the plan
22 required under paragraph (1), the Secretary, acting
23 through the Administrator, shall consider each of
24 the following:

1 “(A) The findings of the survey required
2 under section 2 of the Transportation Security
3 Preparedness Act of 2021.

4 “(B) All relevant reports and recommenda-
5 tions regarding the Administration’s response
6 to the COVID–19 pandemic, including any re-
7 ports and recommendations issued by the
8 Comptroller General and the Inspector General
9 of the Department of Homeland Security.

10 “(C) Lessons learned from Federal inter-
11 agency efforts during the COVID–19 pandemic.

12 “(3) CONTENTS OF PLAN.—The plan developed
13 under paragraph (1) shall include each of the fol-
14 lowing:

15 “(A) Plans for communicating and collabo-
16 rating in the event of a communicable disease
17 outbreak with the following partners:

18 “(i) Appropriate Federal departments
19 and agencies, including the Department of
20 Health and Human Services, the Centers
21 for Disease Control and Prevention, the
22 Department of Transportation, the De-
23 partment of Labor, and appropriate inter-
24 agency task forces.

1 “(ii) The workforce of the Administra-
2 tion, including through the labor organiza-
3 tion certified as the exclusive representa-
4 tive of full- and part-time non-supervisory
5 Administration personnel carrying out
6 screening functions under section 44901 of
7 this title.

8 “(iii) International partners, including
9 the International Civil Aviation Organiza-
10 tion and foreign governments, airports,
11 and air carriers.

12 “(iv) Public and private stakeholders,
13 as such term is defined under subsection
14 (t)(1)(C).

15 “(v) The traveling public.

16 “(B) Plans for protecting the safety of the
17 Transportation Security Administration work-
18 force, including—

19 “(i) reducing the risk of commu-
20 nicable disease transmission at screening
21 checkpoints and within the Administra-
22 tion’s workforce related to the Administra-
23 tion’s transportation security operations
24 and mission;

1 “(ii) ensuring the safety and hygiene
2 of screening checkpoints and other
3 workstations;

4 “(iii) supporting equitable and appro-
5 priate access to relevant vaccines, prescrip-
6 tions, and other medical care; and

7 “(iv) tracking rates of employee ill-
8 ness, recovery, and death.

9 “(C) Criteria for determining the condi-
10 tions that may warrant the integration of addi-
11 tional actions in the aviation screening system
12 in response to the communicable disease out-
13 break and a range of potential roles and re-
14 sponsibilities that align with such conditions.

15 “(D) Contingency plans for temporarily
16 adjusting checkpoint operations to provide for
17 passenger and employee safety while maintain-
18 ing security during the communicable disease
19 outbreak.

20 “(E) Provisions setting forth criteria for
21 establishing an interagency task force or other
22 standing engagement platform with other ap-
23 propriate Federal departments and agencies, in-
24 cluding the Department of Health and Human

1 Services and the Department of Transportation,
2 to address such communicable disease outbreak.

3 “(F) A description of scenarios in which
4 the Administrator should consider exercising
5 authorities provided under subsection (g) and
6 for what purposes.

7 “(G) Considerations for assessing the ap-
8 propriateness of issuing security directives and
9 emergency amendments to regulated parties in
10 various modes of transportation, including sur-
11 face transportation, and plans for ensuring
12 compliance with such measures.

13 “(H) A description of any potential obsta-
14 cles, including funding constraints and limita-
15 tions to authorities, that could restrict the abil-
16 ity of the Administration to respond appro-
17 priately to a communicable disease outbreak.

18 “(4) DISSEMINATION.—Upon development of
19 the plan required under paragraph (1), the Adminis-
20 trator shall disseminate the plan to the partners
21 identified under paragraph (3)(A) and to the Com-
22 mittee on Homeland Security of the House of Rep-
23 resentatives and the Committee on Commerce,
24 Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

1 “(5) REVIEW OF PLAN.—Not later than two
2 years after the date on which the plan is dissemi-
3 nated under paragraph (4), and biennially there-
4 after, the Secretary, acting through the Adminis-
5 trator and in coordination with the Chief Medical
6 Officer of the Department of Homeland Security,
7 shall review the plan and, after consultation with the
8 partners identified under paragraphs (3)(A)(i)
9 through (3)(A)(iv), update the plan as appropriate.”.

10 (b) COMPTROLLER GENERAL REPORT.—Not later
11 than one year after the date on which the transportation
12 security preparedness plan required under subsection (x)
13 of section 114 of title 49, United States Code, as added
14 by subsection (a), is disseminated under paragraph (4) of
15 such subsection (x), the Comptroller General of the United
16 States shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Secu-
17 rity of the House of Representatives and the Committee
18 on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate
19 a report containing the results of a study assessing the
20 transportation security preparedness plan, including an
21 analysis of—

22 (1) whether such plan aligns with relevant Fed-
23 eral plans and strategies for communicable disease
24 outbreaks; and

1 (2) the extent to which the Transportation Se-
2 curity Administration is prepared to implement the
3 plan.

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