

Union Calendar No. 11

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1877

[Report No. 117-24]

To require the Transportation Security Administration to issue a plan to improve security screening procedures at airports during the COVID-19 national emergency, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 12, 2021

Mr. CLEAVER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Homeland Security

APRIL 30, 2021

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole
House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on March 12, 2021]

A BILL

To require the Transportation Security Administration to issue a plan to improve security screening procedures at airports during the COVID–19 national emergency, 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 “Security Screening Dur-*
5 *ing COVID–19 Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. PLAN.**

7 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 90 days after the
8 *date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in co-*
9 *ordination with the Chief Medical Officer of the Department*
10 *of Homeland Security, and in consultation with the Sec-*
11 *retary of Health and Human Services and the Director of*
12 *the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall issue*
13 *and commence implementing a plan to enhance, as appro-*
14 *priate, security operations at airports during the COVID–*
15 *19 national emergency in order to reduce risk of the spread*
16 *of the coronavirus at passenger screening checkpoints and*
17 *among the TSA workforce.*

18 (b) *CONTENTS.*—The plan required under subsection
19 (a) shall include the following:

20 (1) *An identification of best practices developed*
21 *in response to the coronavirus among foreign govern-*
22 *ments, airports, and air carriers conducting aviation*
23 *security screening operations, as well as among Fed-*
24 *eral agencies conducting similar security screening*
25 *operations outside of airports, including in locations*

1 *where the spread of the coronavirus has been success-*
2 *fully contained, that could be further integrated into*
3 *the United States aviation security system.*

4 *(2) Specific operational changes to aviation secu-*
5 *rity screening operations informed by the identifica-*
6 *tion of best practices under paragraph (1) that could*
7 *be implemented without degrading aviation security*
8 *and a corresponding timeline and costs for imple-*
9 *menting such changes.*

10 *(c) CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out the identifica-*
11 *tion of best practices under subsection (b), the Adminis-*
12 *trator shall take into consideration the following:*

13 *(1) Aviation security screening procedures and*
14 *practices in place at security screening locations, in-*
15 *cluding procedures and practices implemented in re-*
16 *sponse to the coronavirus.*

17 *(2) Volume and average wait times at each such*
18 *security screening location.*

19 *(3) Public health measures already in place at*
20 *each such security screening location.*

21 *(4) The feasibility and effectiveness of imple-*
22 *menting similar procedures and practices in locations*
23 *where such are not already in place.*

24 *(5) The feasibility and potential benefits to secu-*
25 *rity, public health, and travel facilitation of con-*

1 *tinuing any procedures and practices implemented in*
2 *response to the COVID–19 national emergency beyond*
3 *the end of such emergency.*

4 (d) *CONSULTATION.*—*In developing the plan required*
5 *under subsection (a), the Administrator may consult with*
6 *public and private stakeholders and the TSA workforce, in-*
7 *cluding through the labor organization certified as the ex-*
8 *clusive representative of full- and part-time non-super-*
9 *visory TSA personnel carrying out screening functions*
10 *under section 44901 of title 49, U.S. Code.*

11 (e) *SUBMISSION.*—*Upon issuance of the plan required*
12 *under subsection (a), the Administrator shall submit the*
13 *plan to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House*
14 *of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,*
15 *Science, and Transportation of the Senate.*

16 (f) *ISSUANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION.*—*The Adminis-*
17 *trator shall not be required to issue or implement, as the*
18 *case may be, the plan required under subsection (a) upon*
19 *the termination of the COVID–19 national emergency ex-*
20 *cept to the extent the Administrator determines such*
21 *issuance or implementation, as the case may be, to be fea-*
22 *sible and beneficial to security screening operations.*

23 (g) *GAO REVIEW.*—*Not later than one year after the*
24 *issuance of the plan required under subsection (a) (if such*
25 *plan is issued in accordance with subsection (f)), the Comp-*

1 *troller General of the United States shall submit to the Com-*
 2 *mittee on Homeland Security of the House of Representa-*
 3 *tives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-*
 4 *portation of the Senate a review, if appropriate, of such*
 5 *plan and any efforts to implement such plan.*

6 *(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

7 *(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-*
 8 *trator” means the Administrator of the Transpor-*
 9 *tation Security Administration.*

10 *(2) CORONAVIRUS.—The term “coronavirus” has*
 11 *the meaning given such term in section 506 of the*
 12 *Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supple-*
 13 *mental Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116–*
 14 *123).*

15 *(3) COVID–19 NATIONAL EMERGENCY.—The*
 16 *term “COVID–19 national emergency” means the na-*
 17 *tional emergency declared by the President under the*
 18 *National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) on*
 19 *March 13, 2020, with respect to the coronavirus.*

20 *(4) PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STAKEHOLDERS.—The*
 21 *term “public and private stakeholders” has the mean-*
 22 *ing given such term in section 114(t)(1)(C) of title 49,*
 23 *United States Code.*

24 *(5) TSA.—The term “TSA” means the Trans-*
 25 *portation Security Administration.*

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