

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8128

To foster greater deployment of same-day paratransit services for individuals with disabilities and to establish minimum standards for paratransit technology, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 26, 2026

Ms. SIMON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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## A BILL

To foster greater deployment of same-day paratransit services for individuals with disabilities and to establish minimum standards for paratransit technology, 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 “Same-Day Paratransit  
5       Innovation Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds the following:

1           (1) Mobility access is a fundamental pillar of  
2           independence, equity, and dignity for individuals  
3           with disabilities, enabling access to daily necessities  
4           and the opportunity to participate in a well-rounded,  
5           connected life that would otherwise be out of reach.

6           (2) According to the Department of Transpor-  
7           tation Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS),  
8           an estimated 18,600,000 Americans have travel-lim-  
9           iting disabilities that could necessitate reliance on  
10          paratransit services to access employment, edu-  
11          cation, healthcare, and community life, yet they face  
12          significant and ongoing barriers to achieve mobility,  
13          equity, and inclusion.

14          (3) Over 80 percent of the young adults with  
15          disabilities surveyed by the National Aging and Dis-  
16          ability Transportation Center (NADTC) stated that  
17          they're often held back from activities because of  
18          lack of transportation or inability to drive, resulting  
19          in them feeling isolated, frustrated, and even  
20          trapped without reliable same-day transit, with ac-  
21          cess barriers compounded by income level, vehicle  
22          ownership, and strict or outdated eligibility and  
23          scheduling policies.

24          (4) The Census Bureau projects that almost 1  
25          in 4 Americans will be aged 65 or older and the

1        number of people over age 85 will triple by 2060,  
2        thereby increasing already constrained paratransit  
3        demand.

4            (5) The transportation provisions of the Ameri-  
5        cans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) only re-  
6        quire that complementary paratransit be operated on  
7        a next-day basis, requiring riders with disabilities to  
8        know and schedule all trips at least 24 hours in ad-  
9        vance and leaving no flexibility to adjust to last  
10       minute or day-of changes in plans.

11           (6) The lack of flexible, same-day transpor-  
12        tation options hinders the lives and opportunities of  
13        persons with disabilities, negatively impacting their  
14        independence and participation in civic life and con-  
15        tributing to the 10 percent unemployment rate  
16        among working-age Americans with disabilities in  
17        July 2025, as reported by the Bureau of Labor Sta-  
18        tistics.

19           (7) Technological advancements and product of-  
20        ferings now allow transit agencies to schedule and  
21        provide same-day paratransit services through dy-  
22        namic trip matching, real-time route optimization,  
23        and the integration of multiple service providers  
24        through API or related mechanisms, all accessible  
25        through user-friendly mobile applications.

1           (8) In 2023, the Federal Transit Administra-  
2           tion published a Dear Colleague letter to the transit  
3           industry extolling the benefits and opportunities for  
4           deploying same-day paratransit using existing for-  
5           mula funding.

6           (9) Whereas, same-day paratransit has been  
7           proven to improve transit agency cost and service ef-  
8           ficiencies, highlighted by MBTA’s RIDE Flex pro-  
9           gram, which saw total trips increase by 53 percent  
10          and operational spend decrease by 6 percent over 3  
11          years with the integration of a same-day service, per  
12          the Federal Transit Administration’s Transit Coop-  
13          erative Research Program (TCRP).

14          (10) Congress recognizes the urgent need to  
15          modernize and expand same-day paratransit options  
16          through formula funding to incentivize transit agen-  
17          cies to provide same-day paratransit services that  
18          foster innovation and empower individuals with dis-  
19          abilities to choose the mobility solution that best fits  
20          their needs.

21 **SEC. 3. ACCESSIBILITY INNOVATION SAME-DAY PARA-**  
22 **TRANSIT.**

23          (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5310(d) of title 49,  
24          United States Code, is amended—

1           (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “except that  
2           a grant for a capital project directly related to the  
3           provision of same-day paratransit services shall be in  
4           an amount equal to 90 percent of the net capital  
5           costs of the project, as determined by the Sec-  
6           retary.” after “Secretary”; and

7           (2) by amending paragraph (2) to read as fol-  
8           lows:

9           “(2) OPERATING ASSISTANCE.—A grant made  
10          under this section for operating assistance may not  
11          exceed an amount equal to—

12               “(A) 50 percent of the net operating costs  
13               of the project, as determined by the Secretary;

14               “(B) 70 percent of the net operating costs  
15               of a project to provide same-day paratransit  
16               service in compliance with the minimum stand-  
17               ards established by the Administrator; or

18               “(C) 80 percent of the net operating costs  
19               of a project to provide same-day paratransit  
20               service in compliance with the minimum stand-  
21               ards established by the Administrator and using  
22               vehicles operated exclusively by personnel em-  
23               ployed by the recipient for same-day paratransit  
24               service.”.

1 (b) URBANIZED AREA FORMULA GRANTS.—Section  
2 5307(d) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

3 (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “, except that  
4 a grant for a capital project directly related to the  
5 provision of same-day paratransit services shall be in  
6 an amount equal to 90 percent of the net capital  
7 costs of the project, as determined by the Sec-  
8 retary.” after “the project”; and

9 (2) by amending paragraph (2), to read as fol-  
10 lows:

11 “(2) OPERATING ASSISTANCE.—A grant made  
12 under this section for operating assistance may not  
13 exceed an amount equal to—

14 “(A) 50 percent of the net operating costs  
15 of the project, as determined by the Secretary;  
16 or

17 “(B) 70 percent of the net operating costs  
18 of a project to provide same-day paratransit  
19 service in compliance with the minimum stand-  
20 ards established by the Administrator; or

21 “(C) 80 percent of the net operating costs  
22 of a project to provide same-day paratransit  
23 service in compliance with the minimum stand-  
24 ards established by the Administrator and using  
25 vehicles operated exclusively by personnel em-

1           ployed by the recipient for same-day paratransit  
2           service.”.

3           (c) FORMULA GRANTS FOR RURAL AREAS.—Section  
4   5311(g) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

5           (1) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “, except  
6           that a grant for a capital project directly related to  
7           the provision of same-day paratransit services shall  
8           be in an amount equal to 90 percent of the net cap-  
9           ital costs of the project, as determined by the Sec-  
10          retary.” after “Secretary”; and

11          (2) by amending paragraph (2), to read as fol-  
12          lows:

13           “(2) OPERATING ASSISTANCE.—

14           “(A) A grant made under this section for  
15           operating assistance may not exceed an amount  
16           equal to—

17                   “(i) 50 percent of the net operating  
18                   costs of the project, as determined by the  
19                   Secretary;

20                   “(ii) 70 percent of the net operating  
21                   costs of a project to provide same-day  
22                   paratransit service in compliance with the  
23                   minimum standards established by the Ad-  
24                   ministrator; or

1 “(iii) 80 percent of the net operating  
 2 costs of a project to provide same-day  
 3 paratransit service in compliance with the  
 4 minimum standards established by the ad-  
 5 ministrator, as determined by the secretary  
 6 and using vehicles operated exclusively by  
 7 personnel employed by the recipient for  
 8 same-day paratransit service.

9 “(B) EXCEPTION.—A State described in  
 10 section 120(b) of title 23 shall receive a Gov-  
 11 ernment share of the net operating costs equal  
 12 to 62.5 percent of the Government share pro-  
 13 vided for under paragraph (1)(B).”.

14 **SEC. 4. PARATRANSIT SOFTWARE AND TECHNOLOGY MIN-**  
 15 **IMUM STANDARDS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5310 of title 49, United  
 17 States Code, is amended by adding at the end—

18 “(j) PARATRANSIT SOFTWARE MINIMUM STAND-  
 19 ARDS.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—No later than 1 year after  
 21 enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall issue  
 22 minimum standards for Americans with Disabilities  
 23 (ADA) paratransit software and technologies pro-  
 24 cured pursuant to this section.



1           “(2) STANDARDS.—The Administrator shall  
2       consider the following in developing the guidance de-  
3       scribed in the subsection (a):

4           “(A) Accessibility of applications including  
5       compliance with Web Content Accessibility  
6       Guidelines 2.1 (WCAG 2.1) or any subsequent  
7       version of such Guidelines.

8           “(B) Cybersecurity of applications includ-  
9       ing compliance with System and Organization  
10      Controls 2 (SOC 2) and ISO 27001, and any  
11      successor standard.

12          “(C) Data storage on cloud infrastructure  
13      located in the United States.

14          “(D) Integration of multiple service pro-  
15      viders—including but not limited to paratransit  
16      operated by a transit agency or contractor,  
17      taxis, and transportation networking companies  
18      (TNC)—through API or related mechanisms,  
19      and the ability to move trips between service  
20      providers.

21          “(E) Real-time route optimization and dy-  
22      namic trip scheduling, with the ability to utilize  
23      some of the extra capacity on ADA paratransit  
24      fleet to provide same-day paratransit service.

1           “(F) Ability to book on digital booking  
2 interfaces that can integrate all service pro-  
3 viders.

4           “(G) Data sharing and agency portal sys-  
5 tems, including an open API to enable integra-  
6 tion to third party systems while protecting per-  
7 sonally identifiable information of riders and  
8 capable, if approved by the recipient, of pro-  
9 viding the recipient with the ability to share  
10 data with their metropolitan planning organiza-  
11 tion, State, and local government access to  
12 anonymized data for transportation planning,  
13 real time operations data, and rules.

14           “(H) Safeguards necessary to ensure that  
15 all data generated by the provision of service or  
16 paid for by the recipient is owned by the recipi-  
17 ent and cannot be withheld or limited, nor may  
18 the provider condition access to such data, in  
19 any manner.

20           “(I) Such other considerations as the Ad-  
21 ministrator determines necessary to advance the  
22 needs of riders, transit agencies and providers,  
23 and that ensure that investments are future-  
24 proofed to accommodate emerging technological  
25 and operational developments.

1           “(3) STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION.—In devel-  
2           oping the minimum standards described in para-  
3           graph (1), the Administrator shall consult with rel-  
4           evant stakeholders including—

5                   “(A) transit agencies and transit industry  
6           associations;

7                   “(B) paratransit riders with disabilities;

8                   “(C) organizations representing riders with  
9           disabilities;

10                  “(D) United States Access Board;

11                  “(E) labor organizations representing  
12           frontline public transportation workers;

13                  “(F) transit technology providers;

14                  “(G) for-hire transportation providers; and

15                  “(H) cybersecurity experts.

16           “(4) LIMITATION.—Beginning not later than 1  
17           year after final minimum standards are published by  
18           the Administrator, no funds awarded under section  
19           5307 or 5310 shall be used to acquire or utilize  
20           third-party software for the provision of paratransit  
21           services that does not meet the minimum standards  
22           established under paragraph (1).

23           “(5) FINAL STANDARDS.—Beginning not later  
24           than 2 years after final minimum standards are  
25           published by the Administrator, no funds awarded

1       under section 5311 shall be used to acquire or utilize  
2       third-party software for the provision of paratransit  
3       services that does not meet the minimum standards  
4       established under paragraph (1).”.

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