

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8492

To require the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program for unmanned aircraft system pilot training, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 23, 2026

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM (for himself and Mr. BRESNAHAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program for unmanned aircraft system pilot training, 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 “Public Safety UAS
5 Readiness Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM PILOT TRAINING**
7 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Transpor-
9 tation, acting through the Administrator of the Federal

1 Aviation Administration, shall establish a program to
2 award grants to covered entities to carry out activities to
3 support training of unmanned aircraft system pilots.

4 (b) ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES.—A covered entity in re-
5 ceipt of a grant awarded under this section may use such
6 grant—

7 (1) to establish and develop an unmanned air-
8 craft system training program, including curriculum
9 design, instructional materials, and related resources
10 necessary to carry out—

11 (A) training of public safety personnel on
12 aviation safety, Federal Aviation Administration
13 regulations, basic airspace principles, and public
14 safety mission profiles relating to the operation
15 of unmanned aircraft systems;

16 (B) training of certified remote pilots on
17 risk management, flight execution, data collec-
18 tion for unmanned aircraft systems;

19 (C) specialized instruction for certified re-
20 mote pilots leading unmanned aircraft system
21 missions in complex, multi-agency environ-
22 ments; and

23 (D) the development and validation of pub-
24 lic safety UAS instructors to serve as instruc-

1 tors in certain regions throughout the United
2 States upon completion of such certification;

3 (2) to purchase an unmanned aircraft system
4 that meets all Federal safety standards and regu-
5 latory requirements for the purpose of carrying out
6 the training described in this paragraph; and

7 (3) for reasonable administrative costs directly
8 associated with the delivery of training and program
9 implementation under this section, including support
10 services necessary to ensure student participation
11 and program completion, expenses incurred due to
12 staff attendance, including travel coordination, and
13 local facility use.

14 (c) COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.—To be eligible to receive
15 a grant under this section, a covered entity shall dem-
16 onstrate the ability to manage Federal funds and submit
17 to the Secretary a comprehensive plan describing how such
18 entity will use such funds to develop and sustain un-
19 manned aircraft system training and operations. Such en-
20 tity shall include in the comprehensive plan information
21 on—

22 (1) administration and oversight for any pro-
23 gram proposed to be established using such grant;

24 (2) risk management procedures;

25 (3) airspace coordination and safety protocols;

- 1 (4) certified personnel rosters;
- 2 (5) equipment maintenance schedules;
- 3 (6) data and privacy protections; and
- 4 (7) legal compliance documentation.

5 (d) REQUIREMENTS.—With respect to a training pro-
6 gram established with a grant awarded under this section,
7 a covered entity shall—

8 (1) operate or administer such program in ac-
9 cordance with applicable Federal law and regula-
10 tions, which may include section 44807 of title 49,
11 United States Code, or parts 91 or 107 of title 14,
12 Code of Federal Regulations, as applicable, and—

13 (A) National Wildfire Coordinating Group
14 Standard A-450 or S-373;

15 (B) ASTM International Standard F3266,
16 F3330, or F3370; or

17 (C) National Fire Protection Association
18 Standard 2400; and

19 (2) ensure—

20 (A) that the curriculum for such program
21 is maintained by, or licensed through, a na-
22 tional nonprofit public safety organization or a
23 nonprofit emergency response training entity;

24 (B) that such curriculum remains con-
25 sistent with operational standards and reflects

1 mission specific public safety training needs;
2 and

3 (C) that any modification to such cur-
4 riculum is subject to the approval of the organi-
5 zation through which the curriculum is main-
6 tained or licensed.

7 (e) PRIORITIZATION.—In awarding grants under this
8 section, the Secretary shall prioritize selecting covered en-
9 tities who—

10 (1) engage in high risk operations or operate in
11 underserved regions;

12 (2) demonstrate multi-agency or regional co-
13 ordination;

14 (3) propose to carry out training that is con-
15 sistent with Federal Aviation Administration, Na-
16 tional Wildfire Coordinating Group, and National
17 Fire Protection Association standards; and

18 (4) lack the capacity for unmanned aircraft sys-
19 tems training.

20 (f) REPORTS.—

21 (1) REPORT BY RECIPIENT.—Each recipient of
22 a grant awarded under this section shall, not less
23 frequently than annually, submit to the Secretary a
24 report containing the following information:

1 (A) The number and type of personnel
2 trained using such grant.

3 (B) The number of certifications of public
4 safety UAS instructors under subsection (b)(4).

5 (C) The number of instructors partici-
6 pating in any training provided using such
7 grant.

8 (D) The number of unmanned aircraft sys-
9 tem deployments carried out by such recipient
10 after completion of training carried out with
11 such grant.

12 (E) Challenges or recommendations related
13 to a program established using such grant.

14 (2) REPORT BY SECRETARY.—Not less fre-
15 quently than annually, the Secretary shall submit to
16 Congress a report on the grant program carried out
17 under this section that contains the following infor-
18 mation:

19 (A) A description of grant recipients,
20 disaggregated by region and type of entity re-
21 ceiving such grant.

22 (B) A summary of progress made in build-
23 ing unmanned aircraft system training capacity
24 across the United States.

1 (C) Any recommendations for improve-
2 ments to training standards and the grant pro-
3 gram established under this section.

4 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) CERTIFIED REMOTE PILOT.—The term
6 “certified remote pilot” means a pilot certified to op-
7 erate an unmanned aircraft system under part 107
8 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, or under a
9 valid public aircraft operation or Federal Aviation
10 Administration authorization.

11 (2) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered en-
12 tity” means—

13 (A) a governmental or nonprofit fire de-
14 partment, emergency medical service, or law en-
15 forcement agency;

16 (B) a State or regional public safety train-
17 ing academy;

18 (C) an interagency unmanned aircraft sys-
19 tem collaborative; or

20 (D) a nonprofit public safety training orga-
21 nization that—

22 (i) has demonstrated a national pres-
23 ence in public safety education;

(ii) maintains a primary mission focused on emergency response readiness; and

(iii) has a documented history of partnerships with Federal, State, Tribal, territorial, or local public safety agencies.

(3) EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE.—The term “emergency medical service” has the meaning given the term “emergency medical services” under section 553(e) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290ee–10(e)).

(4) HIGH RISK OPERATION.—The term “high risk operation” means an unmanned aircraft mission conducted in an environment, condition, or for purposes where a loss of control, system, failure, or operational error could reasonably be expected to result in serious injury or death, substantial property damage, or disruption to public safety or critical infrastructure.

(5) INTERAGENCY UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM COLLABORATIVE.—The term “interagency unmanned aircraft system collaborative” means a formal partnership, task force, or mutual aid framework involving 2 or more governmental or nonprofit public safety or emergency response agencies that

1 jointly develop, operate, or coordinate unmanned air-
2 craft system training and deployment to support all-
3 hazards response.

4 (6) NONPROFIT.—The term “nonprofit”, with
5 respect to a covered entity, means an entity that is
6 described in section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue
7 Code of 1986 and is exempt from taxation under
8 section 501(a) of such code.

9 (7) PUBLIC SAFETY UAS INSTRUCTOR.—The
10 term “public safety UAS instructor” means an in-
11 structor providing training for unmanned aircraft
12 system operations conducted for the purpose of
13 emergency response at or on behalf of a covered en-
14 tity.

15 (8) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.—The term
16 “unmanned aircraft system” has the meaning given
17 such term in section 44801 of title 49, United
18 States Code.

19 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
20 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
21 \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2029.

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