

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9898

To amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for free public transportation for individuals who are recently released from incarceration.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 23, 2026

Mr. CLEAVER (for himself, Mr. BELL, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. CHU, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. FROST, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. IVEY, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. TLAIB, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Ms. WILSON of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for free public transportation for individuals who are recently released from incarceration.

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 for Re-
5 entry Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Access to free public transportation services
 2 increases the access that an individual recently re-
 3 leased from prison has to a reliable mode of trans-
 4 portation.

5 (2) Access to a reliable mode of transpor-
 6 tation—

7 (A) promotes the successful reintegration
 8 of a returning individual into the community;

9 (B) reduces the likelihood of recidivism;

10 (C) increases the ability of a returning in-
 11 dividual to access community services; and

12 (D) helps a returning individual to follow
 13 up on referrals from their release plans and to
 14 meet initial parole requirements (if applicable).

15 **SEC. 3. PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION REENTRY SERVICE.**

16 (a) PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION REENTRY SERVICE.—
 17 Chapter 53 of title 49, United States Code, is amended
 18 by adding at the end the following:

19 **“§ 5341. Public transportation reentry service**

20 “(a) IN GENERAL.—

21 “(1) REENTRY SERVICE.—To be eligible for fi-
 22 nancial assistance under section 5307 or 5311, a
 23 covered recipient shall carry out a reentry service
 24 program to provide free public transportation to re-
 25 turning individuals.

1 “(2) DURATION.—A covered recipient shall pro-
2 vide the reentry service described in paragraph (1)
3 to a returning individual for a 1-year period begin-
4 ning on the release date of the returning individual.

5 “(b) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out this section,
6 a covered recipient shall—

7 “(1) create a system for returning individuals
8 to enroll in the reentry service under this section;

9 “(2) instruct transportation staff on the oper-
10 ation of the reentry service;

11 “(3) collect data on the number of returning in-
12 dividuals who use the reentry service and the fre-
13 quency of use; and

14 “(4) develop a system to ensure compliance
15 with the 1-year period described in section (a)(2).

16 “(c) REIMBURSEMENT.—

17 “(1) DIRECT COSTS.—The Secretary may reim-
18 burse a covered recipient for the cost of providing to
19 returning individuals the reentry service under this
20 section.

21 “(2) INDIRECT COSTS.—The reimbursement
22 that a covered recipient receives may include the
23 costs incurred from the following:

24 “(A) Development of the reentry service.

1 “(B) Implementation of the reentry serv-
2 ice.

3 “(C) Operational costs of the reentry serv-
4 ice.

5 “(D) Engagement with technical assistance
6 providers.

7 “(E) Training on the implementation of
8 the reentry service.

9 “(F) Outreach to prisons and to the re-
10 turning individual populations.

11 “(G) Other uses integral to the successful
12 implementation of the reentry service.

13 “(d) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the
14 date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall issue
15 regulations necessary to carry out this section, including
16 regulations that—

17 “(1) promote the coordination of providing
18 technical assistance to a covered recipient;

19 “(2) promote the marketing of the reentry serv-
20 ice to ensure that incarcerated and returning indi-
21 vidual populations are aware of the reentry service;
22 and

23 “(3) clarify the treatment of a returning indi-
24 vidual who resides in different locations, including in

1 different States, during the 1-year period described
2 in subsection (a)(2).

3 “(e) REPORTING.—

4 “(1) COVERED RECIPIENT.—For each year in
5 which a covered recipient receives funds under this
6 section, such recipient shall submit to the National
7 Transit Database an annual report that details the
8 following:

9 “(A) The number of returning individuals
10 who used the reentry service.

11 “(B) The number of trips taken.

12 “(C) An estimate of revenue forgone.

13 “(D) Any other information that the Sec-
14 retary determines appropriate.

15 “(2) FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION.—

16 For each such year, the Administrator of the Fed-
17 eral Transit Administration shall summarize the
18 data reported under paragraph (1) and submit to
19 Congress a report on such data.

20 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21 “(1) RETURNING INDIVIDUAL.—The term ‘re-
22 turning individual’ means an individual who has
23 been incarcerated for a period of not less than 1
24 year in Federal or State prison.

1 “(2) COVERED RECIPIENT.—The term ‘covered
2 recipient’ means a recipient of financial assistance
3 under section 5307 or 5311.”.

4 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chap-
5 ter 53 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by add-
6 ing at the end the following:

 “5341. Public transportation reentry service.”.

7 (c) AUTHORIZATIONS.—Section 5338 of title 49,
8 United States Code, is amended—

9 (1) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
10 section (f); and

11 (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(e) PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION REENTRY SERV-
14 ICE.—There shall be available from the Mass Transit Ac-
15 count of the Highway Trust Fund to carry out section
16 5341 \$40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through
17 2031.”.

18 (d) ELIGIBILITY AS CAPITAL PROJECT.—Section
19 5302(4) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

20 (1) in subparagraph (M) by striking “or” at the
21 end;

22 (2) in subparagraph (N) by striking the period
23 and inserting “; or”; and

24 (3) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(O) operating, planning, and outreach
2 costs described in section 5341.”.

3 (e) REPORT.—Not later than 5 years after the date
4 of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the
5 United States shall submit to Congress a report on imple-
6 mentation of section 5341 of title 49, United States Code,
7 (as added by this section) that includes—

8 (1) details of the implementation and outcome
9 of the program under such section; and

10 (2) the impact that providing returning individ-
11 uals with access to the reentry service under such
12 section has had on recidivism rates of participating
13 returning individuals and on the reentry of such in-
14 dividuals into the community.

15 (f) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

16 (1) URBANIZED AREA FORMULA GRANT.—Sec-
17 tion 5307(c)(1) of title 49, United States Code, is
18 amended—

19 (A) in subparagraph (K), by striking
20 “and” at the end; and

21 (B) by adding at the end the following new
22 subparagraph:

23 “(M) will comply with section 5341; and”.

24 (2) FORMULA GRANTS FOR RURAL AREAS.—
25 Section 5311 of title 49, United States Code, is

1 amended by adding at the end the following new
2 subsection:

3 “(k) GRANT RECIPIENT REQUIREMENT.—A recipient
4 may receive a grant in a fiscal year only if the recipient
5 certifies to the Secretary that such recipient will comply
6 with section 5341.”.

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