108TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

H. R. 4896

To provide for the security of the United States railroad system.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

July 22, 2004

Mr. Oberstar (for himself, Ms. Corrine Brown of Florida, Mr. Lipinski, Mr. Defazio, Mr. Cummings, Mr. Blumenauer, Mr. Larsen of Washington, Mr. Bishop of New York, and Mr. Meehan) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To provide for the security of the United States railroad system.

- 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 "Protecting Railroad
- 5 Operators, Travelers, Employees, and Communities with
- 6 Transportation Security Act of 2004".
- 7 SEC. 2. RAIL TRANSPORTATION SECURITY RISK ASSESS-
- 8 MENT.
- 9 (a) IN GENERAL.—

1	(1) Vulnerability assessment.—The Sec-
2	retary of Transportation, in consultation with the
3	Secretary of Homeland Security, shall complete a
4	vulnerability assessment of railroad transportation.
5	The assessment shall include—
6	(A) identification and evaluation of critical
7	assets and infrastructures to reduce the vulner-
8	ability of the railroad transportation system in
9	the event of an attack on any one target and
10	to ensure that our cities continue to function
11	should an attack occur;
12	(B) identification of threats to those assets
13	and infrastructures;
14	(C) identification of vulnerabilities that are
15	specific to the transportation of hazardous ma-
16	terials by railroad;
17	(D) identification of redundant and backup
18	systems required to ensure the continued oper-
19	ation of critical elements of the railroad system
20	in the event of an attack or other incident, in-
21	cluding disruption of commercial electric power
22	or communications networks; and
23	(E) identification of security weaknesses in
24	passenger and cargo security, transportation in-
25	frastructure, protection systems, procedural

- policies, communications systems, employee training, emergency response planning, and any other area identified by the assessment.
 - (2) Existing private and public sector EFFORTS.—The assessment may take into account actions taken or planned by both public and private entities to address identified security issues and assess the effective integration of such actions.
 - (3) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Based on the assessment conducted under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall develop prioritized recommendations for improving rail security, including any recommendations the Secretary of Transportation has for—
 - (A) improving the security of rail tunnels, rail bridges, rail switching and car storage areas, other rail infrastructure and facilities, information systems, and other areas identified by the Secretary of Transportation as posing significant rail-related risks to public safety and the movement of interstate commerce, taking into account the impact that any proposed security measure might have on the provision of rail service:

1	(B) monitoring critical assets and infra-
2	structure;
3	(C) deploying equipment to detect explo-
4	sives and hazardous chemical, biological, and
5	radioactive substances, and any appropriate
6	countermeasures;
7	(D) training employees and emergency re-
8	sponders in terrorism prevention, passenger
9	evacuation, including tunnel evacuation, and re-
10	sponse activities;
11	(E) conducting public outreach campaigns
12	on passenger railroads;
13	(F) deploying surveillance equipment; and
14	(G) identifying the immediate and long-
15	term costs of measures that may be required to
16	address those risks.
17	(4) Plans.—The report required by subsection
18	(c) shall include—
19	(A) a plan for the Federal Government to
20	provide increased security support at high or
21	severe threat levels of alert; and
22	(B) a plan for coordinating rail security
23	initiatives undertaken by the public and private
24	sectors.

- 1 (b) Consultation; Use of Existing Re-
- 2 SOURCES.—In carrying out the assessment required by
- 3 subsection (a), the Secretary of Transportation shall con-
- 4 sult with railroad carriers, nonprofit employee organiza-
- 5 tions that represent railroad workers, owners or lessors
- 6 of rail cars used to transport hazardous materials, ship-
- 7 pers of hazardous materials by rail, public safety officials
- 8 (including those within other Federal agencies), and other
- 9 relevant parties.
- 10 (c) Report.—
- 11 (1) Contents.—Not later than 180 days after
- the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
- 13 Transportation shall transmit to the Committee on
- 14 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Sen-
- ate and the Committee on Transportation and Infra-
- structure of the House of Representatives a report
- 17 containing the assessment and prioritized rec-
- ommendations required by subsection (a) and an es-
- 19 timate of the cost to implement such recommenda-
- tions.
- 21 (2) FORMAT.—The Secretary of Transportation
- 22 may submit the report in both classified and re-
- dacted formats if the Secretary of Transportation
- determines that such action is appropriate or nec-
- essary.

- 1 (d) 2-YEAR UPDATES.—The Secretary of Transpor-
- 2 tation, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Se-
- 3 curity, shall update the assessment and recommendations
- 4 every 2 years and transmit a report, which may be sub-
- 5 mitted in both classified and redacted formats, to the
- 6 Committees named in subsection (c)(1), containing the up-
- 7 dated assessment and recommendations.
- 8 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
- 9 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of
- 10 Transportation \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2005 for the
- 11 purpose of carrying out this section.
- 12 SEC. 3. MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT.
- Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment
- 14 of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation and the Sec-
- 15 retary of Homeland Security shall execute a memorandum
- 16 of agreement governing the roles and responsibilities of
- 17 the Department of Transportation and the Department of
- 18 Homeland Security, respectively, in addressing railroad
- 19 transportation security matters, including the processes
- 20 the departments will follow to promote communications,
- 21 efficiency, and nonduplication of effort.
- 22 SEC. 4. STUDY OF FOREIGN RAIL TRANSPORT SECURITY
- PROGRAMS.
- 24 (a) REQUIREMENT FOR STUDY.—Not later than one
- 25 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comp-

- 1 troller General shall complete a study of the rail passenger
- 2 transportation security programs that are carried out for
- 3 rail transportation systems in Japan, member nations of
- 4 the European Union, and other foreign countries.
- 5 (b) Purpose.—The purpose of the study shall be to
- 6 identify effective rail transportation security measures
- 7 that are in use in foreign rail transportation systems, in-
- 8 cluding innovative measures and screening procedures de-
- 9 termined effective.
- 10 (c) Report.—The Comptroller General shall submit
- 11 a report on the results of the study to the Committee on
- 12 Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and
- 13 the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of
- 14 the House of Representatives. The report shall include the
- 15 Comptroller General's assessment regarding whether it is
- 16 feasible to implement within the United States any of the
- 17 same or similar security measures that are determined ef-
- 18 fective under the study.
- 19 SEC. 5. RAIL POLICE OFFICERS.
- 20 Section 28101 of title 49, United States Code, is
- 21 amended by striking "the rail carrier" each place it ap-
- 22 pears and inserting "any rail carrier".
- 23 SEC. 6. REVIEW OF RAIL REGULATIONS.
- The Inspector General of the Department of Trans-
- 25 portation shall review existing rail regulations of the De-

- 1 partment of Transportation for the purpose of identifying
- 2 areas in which those regulations need to be revised to im-
- 3 prove rail security. The Inspector General shall consult,
- 4 as the Inspector General considers appropriate, with offi-
- 5 cials of the Department of Homeland Security and other
- 6 Federal officials. Not later than 1 year after the date of
- 7 enactment of this Act, the Inspector General shall trans-
- 8 mit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-
- 9 portation of the Senate and the Committee on Transpor-
- 10 tation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives
- 11 a report on the review under this section, including rec-
- 12 ommendations for changes to the regulations reviewed and
- 13 any legislative changes required to improve railroad secu-
- 14 rity.
- 15 SEC. 7. FREIGHT AND PASSENGER RAIL SECURITY IM-
- 16 PROVEMENT PROGRAM.
- 17 (a) SECURITY IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.—The Sec-
- 18 retary of Transportation is authorized to make grants to
- 19 railroad carriers, nonprofit employee organizations that
- 20 represent railroad workers or emergency responders, ship-
- 21 pers of hazardous materials by rail, owners of rail cars
- 22 used in the transportation of hazardous materials, univer-
- 23 sities, colleges, and research centers, and State and local
- 24 governments, for full or partial reimbursement of costs in-
- 25 curred in the conduct of activities to prevent or respond

1	to acts of terrorism, sabotage, or other railroad security
2	threats, including—
3	(1) perimeter protection systems, including ac-
4	cess control, installation of better lighting, fencing
5	and barricades at railroad facilities;
6	(2) structural modification or replacement of
7	rail cars transporting high hazard materials to im-
8	prove their resistance to acts of terrorism;
9	(3) technologies for reduction of tank car vul-
10	nerability;
11	(4) security improvements to passenger railroad
12	stations, trains, and infrastructure;
13	(5) tunnel protection systems;
14	(6) passenger and employee evacuation tech-
15	nologies;
16	(7) inspection technologies, including verified
17	visual inspection technologies using hand-held read-
18	ers and discs;
19	(8) security and redundancy for critical commu-
20	nications, computer, and train control systems essen-
21	tial for secure railroad operations or to continue rail-
22	road operations after an attack impacting railroad
23	operations;
24	(9) train tracking and interoperable commu-
25	nications systems;

1	(10) explosive detection technology and devices;
2	(11) security of hazardous material transpor-
3	tation by rail;
4	(12) fire suppression and decontamination
5	equipment;
6	(13) surveillance equipment and round-the-clock
7	monitoring of critical infrastructure locations;
8	(14) additional police and security officers, in-
9	cluding canine units;
10	(15) accommodation of cargo or passenger
11	screening equipment;
12	(16) employee security awareness, prepared-
13	ness, and emergency response training;
14	(17) public security awareness campaigns for
15	passenger train operations; and
16	(18) other improvements recommended by the
17	report required by section 2, including infrastruc-
18	ture, facilities, and equipment upgrades.
19	(b) Conditions.—The Secretary of Transportation
20	may not disburse funds to Amtrak under subsection (a)
21	unless Amtrak meets the conditions set forth in section
22	12(b).
23	(c) Authorization of Appropriations.—There
24	are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of
25	Transportation \$500,000,000 for fiscal year 2005 to carry

1	out the purposes of this section. Amounts appropriated
2	pursuant to this subsection shall remain available until ex-
3	pended.
4	SEC. 8. FIRE AND LIFE-SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS.
5	(a) Life-Safety Needs.—The Secretary of Trans-
6	portation is authorized to make grants to Amtrak for the
7	purpose of making fire and life-safety improvements to
8	tunnels on the Northeast Corridor in New York, New
9	York, Baltimore, Maryland, and Washington, District of
10	Columbia.
11	(b) Authorization of Appropriations.—There
12	are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of
13	Transportation for the purposes of carrying out subsection
14	(a) the following amounts:
15	(1) For the 6 New York tunnels to provide ven-
16	tilation, electrical, and fire safety technology up-
17	grades, emergency communication and lighting sys-
18	tems, and emergency access and egress for pas-
19	sengers—
20	(A) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2005;
21	(B) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2006;
22	(C) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2007;
23	(D) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;
24	and
25	(E) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2009.

1	(2) For the Baltimore & Potomac Tunnel and
2	the Union tunnel, together, to provide adequate
3	drainage, ventilation, communication, lighting, and
4	passenger egress upgrades—
5	(A) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2005;
6	(B) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2006;
7	(C) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2007;
8	(D) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2008; and
9	(E) $$17,000,000$ for fiscal year 2009.
10	(3) For the Washington, District of Columbia,
11	Union Station tunnels to improve ventilation, com-
12	munication, lighting, and passenger egress up-
13	grades—
14	(A) \$8,000,000 for fiscal year 2005;
15	(B) \$8,000,000 for fiscal year 2006;
16	(C) \$8,000,000 for fiscal year 2007;
17	(D) $\$8,000,000$ for fiscal year 2008; and
18	(E) $\$8,000,000$ for fiscal year 2009.
19	(c) Availability of Appropriated Funds.—
20	Amounts appropriated pursuant to this section shall re-
21	main available until expended.
22	SEC. 9. RAIL SECURITY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.
23	(a) Establishment of Research and Develop-
24	MENT PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Transportation, in
25	consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security,

1	shall carry out a research and development program for
2	the purpose of improving railroad security that may in-
3	clude research and development projects to—
4	(1) reduce the vulnerability of passenger trains,
5	stations, and equipment to explosives and hazardous
6	chemical, biological, and radioactive substances;
7	(2) test new emergency response techniques and
8	technologies;
9	(3) develop improved freight technologies, in-
10	cluding—
11	(A) technologies for sealing rail cars;
12	(B) automatic inspection of rail cars;
13	(C) communication-based train controls;
14	and
15	(D) emergency response training;
16	(4) test wayside detectors that can detect tam-
17	pering with railroad equipment;
18	(5) support enhanced security for the transpor-
19	tation of hazardous materials by rail, including—
20	(A) technologies to detect a breach in a
21	tank car and transmit information about the in-
22	tegrity of tank cars to the train crew;
23	(B) research to improve tank car integrity,
24	with a focus on tank cars that carry high haz-
25	ard materials; and

- 1 (C) techniques to transfer hazardous mate-
- 2 rials from rail cars that are damaged or other-
- wise represent an unreasonable risk to human
- 4 life or public safety; and
- 5 (6) other projects recommended in the report
- 6 required by section 2.
- 7 (b) Coordination With Other Research Initia-
- 8 Tives.—The Secretary of Transportation shall ensure
- 9 that the research and development program authorized by
- 10 this section is coordinated with other research and devel-
- 11 opment initiatives at the Department of Transportation
- 12 and other Federal agencies.
- 13 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
- 14 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of
- 15 Transportation \$50,000,000 in each of fiscal years 2005
- 16 and 2006 to carry out the purposes of this section.
- 17 Amounts appropriated pursuant to this subsection shall
- 18 remain available until expended.

19 SEC. 10. RAIL WORKER SECURITY TRAINING PROGRAM.

- 20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the
- 21 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transpor-
- 22 tation, in consultation with appropriate law enforcement,
- 23 security, and terrorism experts, representatives of railroad
- 24 carriers, and nonprofit employee organizations that rep-
- 25 resent rail workers, shall develop and issue detailed guid-

- 1 ance for a rail worker security training program to pre-
- 2 pare front-line workers for potential threat conditions.
- 3 (b) Program Elements.—The guidance developed
- 4 under subsection (a) shall require such a program to in-
- 5 clude, at a minimum, elements that address the following:
- 6 (1) Determination of the seriousness of any oc-
- 7 currence.
- 8 (2) Crew communication and coordination.
- 9 (3) Appropriate responses to defend oneself.
- 10 (4) Use of protective devices.
- 11 (5) Evacuation procedures.
- 12 (6) Psychology of terrorists to cope with hi-
- jacker behavior and passenger responses.
- 14 (7) Live situational training exercises regarding
- various threat conditions, including tunnel evacu-
- ation procedures.
- 17 (8) Any other subject the Secretary considers
- appropriate.
- 19 (c) Railroad Carrier Programs.—Not later than
- 20 60 days after the Secretary issues guidance under sub-
- 21 section (a) in final form, each railroad carrier shall develop
- 22 a rail worker security training program in accordance with
- 23 that guidance and submit it to the Secretary for approval.
- 24 Not later than 30 days after receiving a railroad carrier's
- 25 program under this subsection, the Secretary shall review

1	the program and approve it or require the railroad carrier
2	to make any revisions the Secretary considers necessary
3	for the program to meet the guidance requirements.
4	(d) Training.—Not later than 180 days after the
5	Secretary approves the training program developed by a
6	railroad carrier under this section, the railroad carrier
7	shall complete the training of all front-line workers in ac-
8	cordance with that program.
9	(e) UPDATES.—The Secretary shall update the train-
10	ing guidance issued under subsection (a) from time to
11	time to reflect new or different security threats, and re-
12	quire railroad carriers to revise their programs accordingly
13	and provide additional training to their front-line workers.
14	SEC. 11. WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION.
15	(a) In General.—No employee or other person may
16	be harassed, prosecuted, held liable, or discriminated
17	against in any way—
18	(1) because that person—
19	(A) has commenced or caused to be com-
20	menced, or is about to commence;
21	(B) has testified or is about to testify at;
22	or
23	(C) has assisted or participated in, or is
24	about to assist or participate in any manner in,

1	a proceeding or any other action to enhance public
2	transportation security; or
3	(2) because that person has refused to violate
4	or assist in the violation of any law, rule, or regula-
5	tion related to public transportation security.
6	(b) Application of Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
7	Amendments.—
8	(1) CIVIL ACTION TO PROTECT AGAINST RETAL-
9	IATION IN FRAUD CASES.—Section 1514A of title
10	18, United States Code, shall apply to subsection (a)
11	of this section as if—
12	(A) an act or refusal to act described in
13	subsection (a) were described in such section
14	1514A; and
15	(B) a violation of subsection (a) were a
16	violation of such section 1514A(a).
17	(2) Retaliating against a witness, victim,
18	OR INFORMANT.—Section 1513(e) of title 18, United
19	States Code, shall apply to a violation of subsection
20	(a) of this section as if the violation of subsection
21	(a) were a violation of such section 1513.
22	SEC. 12. SYSTEMWIDE AMTRAK SECURITY UPGRADES.
23	(a) In General.—The Secretary of Transportation
24	is authorized to make grants to Amtrak for—
25	(1) tunnel protection systems;

1	(2) perimeter protection systems;
2	(3) redundant critical operations control sys-
3	tems;
4	(4) chemical, biological, radiological, or explo-
5	sive detection systems;
6	(5) surveillance equipment;
7	(6) communications equipment;
8	(7) emergency response equipment;
9	(8) fire suppression and decontamination equip-
10	ment;
11	(9) global positioning or automated vehicle loca-
12	tor type system equipment;
13	(10) training of front-line workers and other
14	first responders;
15	(11) evacuation improvements; and
16	(12) other capital safety improvements.
17	(b) Conditions.—The Secretary of Transportation
18	may not disburse funds to Amtrak under subsection (a)
19	unless the projects are contained in a systemwide security
20	plan approved by the Secretary, in consultation with the
21	Secretary of Homeland Security. The plan shall include
22	appropriate measures to address security awareness,
23	emergency response, and passenger evacuation training.
24	(c) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—There are authorized
25	to be appropriated to the Secretary of Transportation

- 1 \$65,000,000 for fiscal year 2005 for the purposes of car-
- 2 rying out this section. Amounts appropriated pursuant to
- 3 this subsection shall remain available until expended.

4 SEC. 13. PUBLIC AWARENESS.

- 5 Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment
- 6 of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation, in consulta-
- 7 tion with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall de-
- 8 velop a national plan for public outreach and awareness.
- 9 Such plan shall be designed to increase awareness of
- 10 measures that the general public, railroad passengers, and
- 11 railroad employees can take to increase railroad system
- 12 security. Such plan shall also provide outreach to railroad
- 13 carriers and their employees to improve their awareness
- 14 of available technologies, ongoing research and develop-
- 15 ment efforts, and available Federal funding sources to im-
- 16 prove railroad security. Not later than 9 months after the
- 17 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transpor-
- 18 tation shall implement the plan developed under this sec-
- 19 tion.

20 SEC. 14. PASSENGER, BAGGAGE, AND CARGO SCREENING.

- 21 (a) REQUIREMENT FOR STUDY AND REPORT.—The
- 22 Secretary of Transportation, in consultation with the Sec-
- 23 retary of Homeland Security, shall—

- 1 (1) analyze the cost and feasibility of requiring 2 security screening for passengers, baggage, and 3 cargo on passenger trains; and
- 4 (2) report the results of the study, together 5 with any recommendations that the Secretary of 6 Transportation may have for implementing a rail se-7 curity screening program to the Committee on Com-8 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate 9 and the Committee on Transportation and Infra-10 structure of the House of Representatives not later 11 than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.
- 12 (b) PILOT PROGRAM.—As part of the study under
- 13 subsection (a), the Secretary of Transportation, in con-
- 14 sultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall
- 15 complete a pilot program of random security screening of
- 16 passengers and baggage at passenger rail stations served
- 17 by Amtrak selected by the Secretary of Transportation,
- 18 in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security.
- 19 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
- 20 are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of
- 21 Transportation to carry out this section \$5,000,000 for
- 22 fiscal year 2005.
- 23 SEC. 15. EMERGENCY RESPONDER TRAINING STANDARDS.
- Section 5115(b) of title 49, United States Code, is
- 25 amended—

1	(1) by striking "and" at the end of paragraph
2	(1)(C);
3	(2) by striking the period at the end of para-
4	graph (2) and inserting "; and"; and
5	(3) by adding at the end the following new
6	paragraph:
7	"(3) shall include standards for the training of
8	persons responsible for responding to emergency sit-
9	uations occurring during the removal and transpor-
10	tation of hazardous materials and high hazard mate-
11	rials (as defined in section 17(2) of the Protecting
12	Railroad Operators, Travelers, Employees, and Com-
13	munities with Transportation Security Act of 2004)
14	to ensure their ability to protect nearby persons,
15	property, or the environment from the effects of ac-
16	cidents involving hazardous materials.".
17	SEC. 16. INFORMATION FOR FIRST RESPONDERS.
18	(a) Amendments.—Chapter 51 of title 49, United
19	States Code, is amended—
20	(1) in section 5111—
21	(A) by inserting "(a) AIR BRAKE EQUIP-
22	MENT.—" before "A rail tank car"; and
23	(B) by adding at the end the following new
24	subsection:
25	"(b) Information for First Responders —

- "(1) Prohibition.—No rail tank car con-1 2 taining hazardous materials may be transported or 3 stored on rail tracks that are part of or connected to the general system of railroad transportation un-5 less information identifying the tank car, the haz-6 ardous materials within such tank car, and response 7 guidance is immediately available to local first re-8 sponders in each location where the tank car may be 9 located. Such information shall be provided through 10 the Operation Respond Institute's technology or similar technology. Each day in which a tank car is 12 transported or stored in violation of this paragraph 13 shall constitute a separate violation.
 - "(2) Exception.—The Secretary of Transportation may provide an exception to the prohibition under paragraph (1) if no data base exists through which the requirement can be met."; and
 - (2) in section 5124, by adding at the end the following: "This section shall not apply to a violation of subsection (b) of section 5111 or a regulation prescribed or order issued under such subsection.".
- 22 (b) Effective Date.—The amendments made by 23 subsection (a) shall take effect 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

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1 SEC. 17. DEFINITIONS.

2	For purposes of this Act—
3	(1) the term "front-line workers" means secu-
4	rity personnel, dispatchers, train operators, other
5	onboard employees, maintenance and support per-
6	sonnel, bridge tenders, and other appropriate em-
7	ployees of railroad carriers;
8	(2) the term "high hazard materials" means
9	poison inhalation hazard materials, Class 2.3 gases,
10	Class 6.1 materials, Class 7 radioactive materials,
11	and anhydrous ammonia; and
12	(3) the terms "railroad" and "railroad carrier"
13	have the meaning given those terms in section
14	20102 of title 49, United States Code.

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