

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8526

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to carry out a health smart air travel pilot program to improve the application of public health risk mitigation measures related to the public health risks presented by COVID–19 in airports and on passenger aircraft.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 2, 2020

Mr. VAN DREW introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to carry out a health smart air travel pilot program to improve the application of public health risk mitigation measures related to the public health risks presented by COVID–19 in airports and on passenger aircraft.

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 “Health Smart Air
5 Travel Act” or the “HSAT Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. HEALTH SMART AIR TRAVEL PILOT PROGRAM.**

2 (a) **AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary of Transportation,
3 jointly with the Secretary of Health and Human Services
4 and the Secretary of Homeland Security, shall establish
5 a pilot program (in this section referred to as the “Pro-
6 gram”) to improve the application of public health risk
7 mitigation measures related to the public health risks pre-
8 sented by COVID–19 in airports and on passenger air-
9 craft. In carrying out the Program, the Secretary shall
10 pursue initiatives informed by—

11 (1) the guidance issued by the Department of
12 Transportation, jointly with the Department of
13 Health and Human Services and the Department of
14 Homeland Security, titled “Runway to Recovery:
15 The United States Framework for Airlines and Air-
16 ports to Mitigate the Public Health Risks of
17 Coronavirus” and dated July 2020; and

18 (2) any additional guidance that the Depart-
19 ment of Transportation, the Department of Health
20 and Human Services, and the Department of Home-
21 land Security may issue in relation to measures nec-
22 essary to mitigate the public health risks presented
23 by COVID–19 in airports and passenger aircraft.

24 (b) **OBJECTIVES.**—The purpose of the Program es-
25 tablished under this section is to—

1 (1) accelerate integration of public health risk
2 mitigation measures related to the public health
3 risks presented by COVID–19 in airports and pas-
4 senger aircraft;

5 (2) identify and address technical, regulatory,
6 and policy challenges to integration of these risk
7 mitigation measures;

8 (3) develop, test, and evaluate smart airport
9 technology and processes as they relate to mitigating
10 public health risks presented by COVID–19 in air-
11 ports and passenger aircraft; and

12 (4) leverage concentrations of aviation, trans-
13 portation security, and public health capital to accel-
14 erate innovation in airports and passenger aircraft.

15 (c) GRANT AWARDS.—The Secretary of Transpor-
16 tation, in consultation with the Secretary of Health and
17 Human Services and the Secretary of Homeland Security,
18 may provide grants under the Program to eligible entities
19 to carry out development, testing, or evaluation of public
20 health risk mitigation measures related to the public
21 health risks presented by COVID–19 in airports and pas-
22 senger aircraft.

23 (d) PUBLICATION OF NOTICE OF GRANT OPPOR-
24 TUNITY.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enact-
25 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation publish

1 in the Federal Register a notice of grant opportunity for
2 grants available under the Program.

3 (e) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Entities eligible to receive
4 funding under the Program may include—

5 (1) State, local, and Tribal governments;

6 (2) commercial airline operators;

7 (3) airports;

8 (4) hospitals and other public health institu-
9 tions;

10 (5) institutions of higher education;

11 (6) relevant research and development nonprofit
12 organizations that are exempt from tax under sec-
13 tion 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of
14 1986;

15 (7) relevant labor organizations;

16 (8) relevant private-sector manufacturers and
17 service providers; and

18 (9) a consortia of any of the entities described
19 in paragraphs (1) through (8).

20 (f) APPLICATION SUBMISSION.—The Secretary of
21 Transportation, jointly with the Secretary of Health and
22 Human Services and the Secretary of Homeland Security,
23 shall establish application requirements for grants from
24 the Program and shall require applicants to include the
25 following information in such application:

1 (1) Identification of the entities proposed to be
2 involved in the development, testing, or evaluation of
3 public health risk mitigation measures.

4 (2) Whether the proposed development, testing,
5 or evaluation pertain to public health mitigation
6 measures related to public health risks presented by
7 COVID–19 in airports, passenger aircraft, or both.

8 (3) A description of such development, testing,
9 or evaluation.

10 (4) A description of the financial cost of such
11 development, testing, or evaluation, including the re-
12 quested grant amount.

13 (5) How such development, testing, or evalua-
14 tion will accomplish the objectives of the pilot pro-
15 gram and inform wider adoption in airports and pas-
16 senger aircraft.

17 (6) Identification of available infrastructure and
18 capabilities to support such development, testing, or
19 evaluation.

20 (7) A description of the capabilities and exper-
21 tise related to the proposed project with respect to
22 aviation, airline operations, airport operations, smart
23 airport technology, transportation security, and pub-
24 lic health.

1 (8) A description of any existing relationships
2 with relevant Federal agencies.

3 (g) EVALUATION OF APPLICANTS.—Upon receipt of
4 applications under this section by the Secretary of Trans-
5 portation, the Secretary shall evaluate such applications
6 jointly with the Secretary of Health and Human Services
7 and the Secretary of Homeland Security.

8 (h) SELECTION CRITERIA.—The Secretary of Trans-
9 portation shall make selections, in consultation with the
10 Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Sec-
11 retary of Homeland Security, for participation in the Pro-
12 gram, taking into consideration the following:

13 (1) The effectiveness of the proposal of develop-
14 ment, testing, or evaluation of public health risk
15 mitigation measures at accomplishing the objectives
16 under subsection (b).

17 (2) The involvement of relevant aviation, trans-
18 portation security, and public health infrastructure.

19 (3) The involvement of the private sector in the
20 proposal, including whether the proposal leverages
21 existing commercial technologies.

22 (4) The agreement of the entities involved in
23 the proposal to comply with such requirements as
24 the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of
25 Health and Human Services, and the Secretary of

1 Homeland Security determine necessary for purposes
2 of aviation safety, public health safety, and transpor-
3 tation security.

4 (5) The agreement of the entities involved in
5 the proposal to share data collected and experience
6 gained over the course of the development, testing,
7 or evaluation of public health mitigation measures
8 with the Secretary of Transportation, Secretary of
9 Health and Human Services, and the Secretary of
10 Homeland Security.

11 (i) DESIGNATION OF DATA REPORTING FACILI-
12 TIES.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
14 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
15 Transportation, the Secretary of Homeland Security,
16 and the Secretary of Health and Human Services,
17 shall each—

18 (A) designate a Federal facility or Federal
19 facilities for receiving, processing, and ana-
20 lyzing data collected and experience gained by
21 recipients of grants under the Program; and

22 (B) begin reporting the information de-
23 scribed in subparagraph (A) to the remaining
24 Secretaries listed in this paragraph.

1 (2) SCOPE OF INFORMATION COLLECTED.—

2 With respect to the information collected and ana-
3 lyzed under subparagraph (A)—

4 (A) the Secretary of Transportation shall
5 collect, analyze, and report information on pub-
6 lic health risk mitigation measures in passenger
7 aircraft;

8 (B) the Secretary of Homeland Security
9 shall collect, analyze, and report information on
10 public health risk mitigation measures in air-
11 ports; and

12 (C) the Secretary of Health and Human
13 Services shall collect, analyze, and report infor-
14 mation on public health risk mitigation meas-
15 ures in airports and on passenger aircraft.

16 (j) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Secretary of Transpor-
17 tation shall, jointly with the Secretary of Health and
18 Human Services and the Secretary of Homeland Security,
19 use the data collected and experience gained under sub-
20 section (i) to—

21 (1) identify technical, regulatory, or policy chal-
22 lenges to the integration of public health risk mitiga-
23 tion measures related to the public health risks cre-
24 ated by COVID–19 in airports and on passenger air-
25 craft; and

1 (2) inform ongoing initiatives by the Federal
2 Aviation Administration, the Transportation Secu-
3 rity Administration, and the Centers for Disease
4 Control to develop operational standards and proce-
5 dures to mitigate public health risks presented by
6 COVID–19 in airports and passenger aircraft.

7 (k) BRIEFING.—Not later than 1 year after the date
8 of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter through
9 fiscal year 2023, the Secretary of Transportation, jointly
10 with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the
11 Secretary of Homeland Security, shall brief Congress on
12 the recipients of funding and activities carried out under
13 the Program.

14 (l) FUNDING.—

15 (1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

16 There are authorized to be appropriated
17 \$77,000,000 to carry out this section, to remain
18 available through fiscal year 2023.

19 (2) USE OF FUNDS.—Of the amounts made
20 available under paragraph (1)—

21 (A) not more than \$7,000,000 may be
22 used jointly by the Secretary of Transportation,
23 Secretary of Health and Human Services, and
24 the Secretary of Homeland Security for the ad-
25 ministration of the Program; and

1 (B) not less than \$70,000,000 shall be
2 awarded through the issuance of grants.

3 (3) GRANT AMOUNTS.—The amount of a grant
4 awarded under this section shall be not less than
5 \$50,000 and not more than \$5,000,000.

6 (m) SUNSET.—The authority to provide grants under
7 this section shall terminate on the last day of fiscal year
8 2023.

9 (n) SMART AIRPORT TECHNOLOGIES DEFINED.—In
10 this section, “smart airport technologies” means the tech-
11 nologies described in section 145 of the FAA Reauthoriza-
12 tion Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–254).

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