

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5216

To require the Secretary of Transportation, to issue regulations and guidance to allow certain regional transportation planning organizations to increase spare bus ratios to 30 percent, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 8, 2025

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

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Transportation, to issue regulations and guidance to allow certain regional transportation planning organizations to increase spare bus ratios to 30 percent, 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 “Bus Utilization for
5 Fleet Flexibility and Emergency Resilience Act” or the
6 “BUFFER Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Extreme weather events such as extreme
2 heat and extreme cold threaten the lives and liveli-
3 hoods of communities across the United States.

4 (2) Instances of extreme weather can increase
5 vehicle repair and maintenance needs for transit
6 buses.

7 (3) Operational disruptions to fixed bus routes
8 during extreme weather events are dangerous to peo-
9 ple who rely on bus services to get around.

10 (4) Transit agencies with high-frequency and
11 high-intensity service, including regions that are
12 tourism and live entertainment hubs, face additional
13 operational challenges.

14 **SEC. 3. INCREASE OF SPARE BUS RATIO.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
16 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transpor-
17 tation, acting through the Administrator of the Federal
18 Transit Administration, shall issue such regulations and
19 guidance as are necessary to allow, upon request, a re-
20 gional transportation planning organization to increase
21 the spare bus ratio of such organization to 30 percent.

22 (b) ELIGIBILITY FOR SPARE BUS RATIO IN-
23 CREASE.—To be eligible for an increase described under
24 subsection (a), a regional transportation planning organi-
25 zation shall submit to the Administrator—

1 (1) a certification that the region regularly ex-
2 periences extreme weather events;

3 (2) a description of how extreme weather events
4 have disrupted bus operations in the region; and

5 (3) a description of how increasing the spare
6 ratio will help ensure reliable services for users of
7 fixed bus routes during incidents of extreme weath-
8 er.

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