

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6081

To authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a request for proposals for a private sector entity to develop an operating model for an interoperable gray chassis pool at the rail ramps around Memphis, Tennessee.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 26, 2021

Mr. KUSTOFF (for himself, Mr. CRAWFORD, and Mr. COHEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Transportation to issue a request for proposals for a private sector entity to develop an operating model for an interoperable gray chassis pool at the rail ramps around Memphis, Tennessee.

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 “Improving Chassis Ca-
5 pacity for Memphis’ Supply Chain Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEVELOPMENT OF OPERATING MODEL FOR INTER-**
2 **OPERABLE GRAY CHASSIS POOL AT THE RAIL**
3 **RAMPS AROUND MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE.**

4 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission”
6 means the Federal Maritime Commission.

7 (2) INTEROPERABLE GRAY CHASSIS POOL.—
8 The term “interoperable gray chassis pool” means a
9 single enterprise for voluntary chassis provisioning
10 that allows for the use of any container chassis for
11 marine shipping containers not less than 20 feet and
12 not more than 45 feet in length at the rail ramps
13 around Memphis, Tennessee, by shippers or motor
14 carriers.

15 (b) DEVELOPMENT OF PLAN.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of
17 appropriations, not later than 6 months after the
18 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
19 Transportation, in coordination with the Commis-
20 sion, shall develop a plan to issue a request for pro-
21 posals to develop an operating model for an inter-
22 operable gray chassis pool at the rail ramps around
23 Memphis, Tennessee.

24 (2) PLAN DETAILS.—In developing the plan
25 under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Transpor-
26 tation, in coordination with the Commission, shall

1 identify a suitable location or locations for the inter-
2 operable gray chassis pool and consult with relevant
3 stakeholders, including the International Port of
4 Memphis, ocean carriers, railroad carriers, motor
5 carriers, chassis providers, shippers, and the Surface
6 Transportation Board.

7 (3) CONTENT OF PLAN AND AVAILABILITY.—

8 The plan under paragraph (1) shall—

9 (A) include—

10 (i) objectives and duties of a private
11 sector entity to establish the interoperable
12 gray chassis pool;

13 (ii) expectations for voluntary partici-
14 pation based on consultations; and

15 (iii) the appropriate approach for
16 seeking and receiving feedback from Mem-
17 phis stakeholders regarding the interper-
18 able gray chassis pool; and

19 (B) be publicly available on a website not
20 later than 7 days after the plan is completed.

21 (c) REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of
23 appropriations, not later than 1 year after the date
24 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transpor-
25 tation, in coordination with the Commission, shall

1 issue a request for proposals for a private sector en-
2 tity to develop an operating model for an interoper-
3 able gray chassis pool consistent with the plan re-
4 quired under subsection (b).

5 (2) CONTENT OF PROPOSAL.—A proposal sub-
6 mitted pursuant to a request under paragraph (1)
7 shall include—

8 (A) a fee structure that would sustain the
9 interoperable gray chassis pool without a sub-
10 sidy;

11 (B) specification of performance goals, in-
12 cluding rates of chassis in maintenance and av-
13 erage turn times, and a plan to achieve the per-
14 formance goals;

15 (C) expectations for communication and
16 coordination among carriers and local busi-
17 nesses, including any facilitation by the private
18 sector entity;

19 (D) expectations for total chassis involved,
20 whether from voluntary participation of existing
21 providers or addition of chassis by the private
22 sector entity;

23 (E) identification of real property nec-
24 essary to implement the interoperable gray

1 chassis pool, whether from voluntary partici-
2 pants or to be acquired; and

3 (F) a commitment from the private sector
4 entity to implement the interoperable gray chas-
5 sis pool at the rail ramps around Memphis,
6 Tennessee, based on the operating model devel-
7 oped for the proposal within a specified time-
8 frame.

9 (d) AWARDING OF CONTRACT.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of
11 appropriations, except as provided in paragraph (2),
12 from the proposals submitted under subsection (c),
13 the Secretary of Transportation, with approval from
14 the Commission, shall award a contract to a private
15 sector entity to develop and implement an operating
16 model for an interoperable gray chassis pool at the
17 rail ramps around Memphis, Tennessee.

18 (2) NO SATISFACTORY PROPOSAL.—If no satis-
19 factory proposal is submitted under subsection (c),
20 the Secretary of Transportation, in coordination
21 with the Commission, shall submit, not later than 6
22 months after the date on which all proposals are
23 submitted, a report to the Committee on Commerce,
24 Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the
25 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of

1 the House of Representatives with potential alter-
2 native options to improve chassis provisioning and
3 supply chain efficiency at the rail ramps around
4 Memphis, Tennessee.

5 (e) EVALUATION.—The Secretary of Transportation,
6 in coordination with the Commission, shall—

7 (1) evaluate the effectiveness of an interoper-
8 able gray chassis pool developed under this section
9 not later than 1 year after implementation; and

10 (2) issue a report to the Committee on Com-
11 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate
12 and the Committee on Transportation and Infra-
13 structure of the House of Representatives regarding
14 the evaluation, including best practices and lessons
15 learned, not later than 2 years after implementation.

16 (f) LIMITATIONS.—

17 (1) VOLUNTARY PARTICIPATION.—Participation
18 in the interoperable gray chassis pool developed
19 under this section shall be voluntary.

20 (2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this
21 section shall be construed to authorize the Depart-
22 ment of Transportation or the Commission to pur-
23 chase or operate tangible property related to the de-
24 velopment of the interoperable gray chassis pool
25 under this section.

1 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
2 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
3 \$500,000.

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