

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8645

To improve airport security screening for certain veterans and passengers with disabilities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 5, 2024

Mr. THANEDAR (for himself and Mr. LALOTA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, 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 improve airport security screening for certain veterans and passengers with disabilities, 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 “Improved Screening
5 for Veterans and Passengers with Disabilities Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS TO AIRPORT SECURITY SCREEN-**
2 **ING OF CERTAIN VETERANS AND PAS-**
3 **SENGERS WITH DISABILITIES.**

4 (a) SEPARATE AND DISTINCT TRAINING FOR TSOs
5 RELATING TO PASSENGERS WITH DISABILITIES.—Sec-
6 tion 1950(a) of the TSA Modernization Act (49 U.S.C.
7 44901 note; Public Law 115–254) is amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (3), by adding at the end the
9 following new sentences: “Not later than one year
10 after the date of the enactment of this sentence, the
11 Administrator shall ensure such recurrent training is
12 carried out as a separate and distinct training for all
13 Transportation Security Officers in addition to any
14 relevant module, component, element, or part of any
15 other training for all Transportation Security Offi-
16 cers, and ensure such recurrent training is required
17 for all Transportation Security Officers not less
18 often than annually. Not later than 30 days after
19 the implementation of such recurrent training as a
20 separate and distinct training for all Transportation
21 Security Officers, the Administrator shall submit to
22 the appropriate committees of Congress a certifi-
23 cation relating thereto.”; and

24 (2) by adding at the end the following new
25 paragraph:

1 “(4) BIENNIAL REVIEWS.—The Administrator,
2 in consultation with nationally-recognized veterans
3 and disabilities organizations, shall biennially review
4 and update, as necessary, the curriculum for revised
5 training requirements under paragraph (1).”.

6 (b) ELIGIBILITY OF PASSENGERS WITH DISABIL-
7 ITIES OR MEDICAL CONDITIONS FOR EXPEDITED SECU-
8 RITY SCREENING.—Section 44919 of title 49, United
9 States Code, is amended—

10 (1) by redesignating subsections (j), (k), and (l)
11 as subsections (k), (l), and (m), respectively; and

12 (2) by inserting after subsection (i) the fol-
13 lowing new subsection:

14 “(j) ELIGIBILITY OF PASSENGERS WITH DISABIL-
15 ITIES OR MEDICAL CONDITIONS FOR EXPEDITED SECU-
16 RITY SCREENING.—To the extent possible, the Adminis-
17 trator shall ensure that a passenger with a disability or
18 medical condition enrolled in a trusted traveler program
19 or otherwise eligible for expedited security screening is
20 provided such screening, including at any security screen-
21 ing lane that is dedicated to screening passengers with dis-
22 abilities or medical conditions, whether or not such lane
23 is a dedicated PreCheck Program lane.”.

24 (c) ELIGIBILITY OF SEVERELY INJURED OR DIS-
25 ABLED MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AND SE-

1 VERELY INJURED OR DISABLED VETERANS FOR EXPE-
2 DITED SECURITY SCREENING.—Section 44927 of title 49,
3 United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the
4 following new subsections:

5 “(g) PRECHECK PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN SEVERELY
6 INJURED OR DISABLED VETERANS.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the limitation
8 specified in subparagraph (4), the Administrator of
9 the Transportation Security Administration shall en-
10 roll a veteran described in paragraph (3) in the
11 PreCheck Program under section 44919 at no cost
12 to such veteran who satisfies the background check
13 and other security requirements for participation in
14 such Program.

15 “(2) COORDINATION.—The Secretary of Home-
16 land Security, acting through the Administrator of
17 the Transportation Security Administration, and the
18 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly—

19 “(A) implement by not later than one year
20 after the date of enactment of this subsection
21 a process to verify the eligibility of a veteran
22 described in paragraph (3) and provide to such
23 an eligible veteran the benefits referred to in
24 paragraph (1); and

1 “(B) brief the Committee on Homeland
2 Security and the Committee on Veterans Af-
3 fairs of the House of Representatives and the
4 Committee on Homeland Security and Govern-
5 mental Affairs, the Committee on Commerce,
6 Science, and Transportation, and the Com-
7 mittee on Veterans Affairs of the Senate on the
8 status of such implementation and provision.

9 “(3) ELIGIBILITY.—A veteran described in this
10 paragraph is a veteran who—

11 “(A) is enrolled in the patient enrollment
12 system of the Department of Veterans Affairs
13 established and operated under section 1705 of
14 title 38, United States Code;

15 “(B) has—

16 “(i) lost, or lost use of, a limb;

17 “(ii) become paralyzed or partially
18 paralyzed; or

19 “(iii) incurred permanent blindness;

20 and

21 “(C) as a result of such a loss, paralysis
22 or partial paralysis, or blindness, requires the
23 use of a wheelchair, prosthetic limb, or other
24 assistive device to aid with mobility.

1 “(4) LIMITATION.—The Administrator of the
2 Transportation Security Administration shall carry
3 out this subsection subject to the availability of ap-
4 propriations and may not increase fees for enroll-
5 ment in the PreCheck Program for such purpose.

6 “(h) OUTREACH FOR SEVERELY INJURED OR DIS-
7 ABLED VETERANS.—

8 “(1) COORDINATION.—The Secretary of Home-
9 land Security, acting through the Administrator of
10 the Transportation Security Administration, and the
11 Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out tar-
12 geted outreach to severely injured or disabled vet-
13 erans regarding how to access Transportation Secu-
14 rity Administration programs designed to improve
15 the screening process for severely injured and dis-
16 abled passengers.

17 “(2) ENGAGEMENT WITH SEVERELY INJURED
18 OR DISABLED VETERANS STAKEHOLDERS.—Notwith-
19 standing subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44,
20 United States Code (commonly referred to as the
21 ‘Paperwork Reduction Act’), or any other provision
22 of law, the Secretary of Homeland Security, acting
23 through the Administrator of the Transportation Se-
24 curity Administration, in coordination with the Sec-
25 retary of Veterans Affairs, shall—

1 “(A) engage with nationally-recognized vet-
2 erans and disabilities organizations to assess
3 the awareness of veterans of relevant Transpor-
4 tation Security Administration programs; and

5 “(B) examine the need and feasibility of
6 other measures to improve security screening
7 procedures for severely injured and disabled
8 veterans.

9 “(3) BRIEFING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than
10 180 days after the date of the enactment of this
11 subsection, the Secretary of Homeland Security, act-
12 ing through the Administrator of the Transportation
13 Security Administration, and the Secretary of Vet-
14 erans Affairs shall jointly provide to the Committee
15 on Homeland Security and the Committee on Vet-
16 erans Affairs of the House of Representatives and
17 the Committee on Homeland Security and Govern-
18 mental Affairs, the Committee on Commerce,
19 Science, and Transportation, and the Committee on
20 Veterans Affairs of the Senate a briefing on the sta-
21 tus of the implementation of this subsection.”.

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