

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 720

AN ACT

To improve intergovernmental planning for and communication during security incidents at domestic airports, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Gerardo Hernandez
3 Airport Security Act of 2015”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term “Assist-
7 ant Secretary” means the Assistant Secretary of
8 Homeland Security (Transportation Security) of the
9 Department of Homeland Security.

10 (2) ADMINISTRATION.—The term “Administra-
11 tion” means the Transportation Security Adminis-
12 tration.

13 **SEC. 3. SECURITY INCIDENT RESPONSE AT AIRPORTS.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Secretary shall, in
15 consultation with the Administrator of the Federal Emer-
16 gency Management Agency, conduct outreach to all air-
17 ports in the United States at which the Administration
18 performs, or oversees the implementation and performance
19 of, security measures, and provide technical assistance as
20 necessary, to verify such airports have in place individual-
21 ized working plans for responding to security incidents in-
22 side the perimeter of the airport, including active shooters,
23 acts of terrorism, and incidents that target passenger-
24 screening checkpoints.

25 (b) TYPES OF PLANS.—Such plans may include, but
26 may not be limited to, the following:

1 (1) A strategy for evacuating and providing
2 care to persons inside the perimeter of the airport,
3 with consideration given to the needs of persons with
4 disabilities.

5 (2) A plan for establishing a unified command,
6 including identification of staging areas for non-air-
7 port-specific law enforcement and fire response.

8 (3) A schedule for regular testing of commu-
9 nications equipment used to receive emergency calls.

10 (4) An evaluation of how emergency calls placed
11 by persons inside the perimeter of the airport will
12 reach airport police in an expeditious manner.

13 (5) A practiced method and plan to commu-
14 nicate with travelers and all other persons inside the
15 perimeter of the airport.

16 (6) To the extent practicable, a projected max-
17 imum timeframe for law enforcement response.

18 (7) A schedule of joint exercises and training to
19 be conducted by the airport, the Administration,
20 other stakeholders such as airport and airline ten-
21 ants, and any relevant law enforcement, airport po-
22 lice, fire, and medical personnel.

23 (8) A schedule for producing after-action joint
24 exercise reports to identify and determine how to im-
25 prove security incident response capabilities.

1 (c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days
2 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Assistant
3 Secretary shall report to the Committee on Homeland Se-
4 curity of the House of Representatives and the Committee
5 on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate
6 on the findings from its outreach to airports under sub-
7 section (a), including an analysis of the level of prepared-
8 ness such airports have to respond to security incidents,
9 including active shooters, acts of terrorism, and incidents
10 that target passenger-screening checkpoints.

11 **SEC. 4. DISSEMINATING INFORMATION ON BEST PRAC-**
12 **TICES.**

13 The Assistant Secretary shall—

14 (1) identify best practices that exist across air-
15 ports for security incident planning, management,
16 and training; and

17 (2) establish a mechanism through which to
18 share such best practices with other airport opera-
19 tors nationwide.

20 **SEC. 5. CERTIFICATION.**

21 Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment
22 of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Assistant Sec-
23 retary shall certify in writing to the Committee on Home-
24 land Security of the House of Representatives and the
25 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of

1 the Senate that all screening personnel have participated
2 in practical training exercises for active shooter scenarios.

3 **SEC. 6. REIMBURSABLE AGREEMENTS.**

4 Not later than 90 days after the enactment of this
5 Act, the Assistant Secretary shall provide to the Com-
6 mittee on Homeland Security of the House of Representa-
7 tives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
8 Transportation of the Senate an analysis of how the Ad-
9 ministration can use cost savings achieved through effi-
10 ciencies to increase over the next 5 fiscal years the funding
11 available for checkpoint screening law enforcement sup-
12 port reimbursable agreements.

13 **SEC. 7. NO ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-**
14 **TIONS.**

15 No additional funds are authorized to be appro-
16 priated to carry out this Act, and this Act shall be carried
17 out using amounts otherwise available for such purpose.

18 **SEC. 8. INTEROPERABILITY REVIEW.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
20 date of enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary
21 shall, in consultation with the Assistant Secretary of the
22 Office of Cybersecurity and Communications, conduct a
23 review of the interoperable communications capabilities of
24 the law enforcement, fire, and medical personnel respon-
25 sible for responding to a security incident, including active

1 shooter events, acts of terrorism, and incidents that target
2 passenger-screening checkpoints, at all airports in the
3 United States at which the Administration performs, or
4 oversees the implementation and performance of, security
5 measures.

6 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after the com-
7 pletion of the review, the Assistant Secretary shall report
8 the findings of the review to the Committee on Homeland
9 Security of the House of Representatives and the Com-
10 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the
11 Senate.

Passed the House of Representatives February 10,
2015.

Attest:

Clerk.

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