

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 720

To improve intergovernmental planning for and communication during security incidents at domestic airports, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 4, 2015

Mr. KATKO (for himself, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. McCAUL, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. HUDSON, Mrs. TORRES, Ms. BROWNLEY of California, and Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term “Assist-
9 ant Secretary” means the Assistant Secretary of

1 Homeland Security (Transportation Security) of the
2 Department of Homeland Security.

3 (2) ADMINISTRATION.—The term “Administra-
4 tion” means the Transportation Security Adminis-
5 tration.

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

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

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

20 (1) A strategy for evacuating and providing
21 care to persons inside the perimeter of the airport,
22 with consideration given to the needs of persons with
23 disabilities.

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

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

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

9 (5) A practiced method and plan to commu-
10 nicate with travelers and all other persons inside the
11 perimeter of the airport.

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

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

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

22 (c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days
23 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Assistant
24 Secretary shall report to the Committee on Homeland Se-
25 curity of the House of Representatives and the Committee

1 on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate
2 on the findings from its outreach to airports under sub-
3 section (a), including an analysis of the level of prepared-
4 ness such airports have to respond to security incidents,
5 including active shooters, acts of terrorism, and incidents
6 that target passenger-screening checkpoints.

7 **SEC. 4. DISSEMINATING INFORMATION ON BEST PRAC-**
8 **TICES.**

9 The Assistant Secretary shall—

10 (1) identify best practices that exist across air-
11 ports for security incident planning, management,
12 and training; and

13 (2) establish a mechanism through which to
14 share such best practices with other airport opera-
15 tors nationwide.

16 **SEC. 5. CERTIFICATION.**

17 Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment
18 of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Assistant Sec-
19 retary shall certify in writing to the Committee on Home-
20 land Security of the House of Representatives and the
21 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of
22 the Senate that all screening personnel have participated
23 in practical training exercises for active shooter scenarios.

1 **SEC. 6. REIMBURSABLE AGREEMENTS.**

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

11 **SEC. 7. NO ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-**
12 **TIONS.**

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

16 **SEC. 8. INTEROPERABILITY REVIEW.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
18 date of enactment of this Act, the Assistant Secretary
19 shall, in consultation with the Assistant Secretary of the
20 Office of Cybersecurity and Communications, conduct a
21 review of the interoperable communications capabilities of
22 the law enforcement, fire, and medical personnel respon-
23 sible for responding to a security incident, including active
24 shooter events, acts of terrorism, and incidents that target
25 passenger-screening checkpoints, at all airports in the
26 United States at which the Administration performs, or

1 oversees the implementation and performance of, security
2 measures.

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

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