

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1877

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 21, 2021

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation

AN ACT

To require the Transportation Security Administration to issue a plan to improve security screening procedures at airports during the COVID–19 national emergency, 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 “Security Screening
3 During COVID–19 Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. PLAN.**

5 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the
6 date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in
7 coordination with the Chief Medical Officer of the Depart-
8 ment of Homeland Security, and in consultation with the
9 Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Director
10 of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall
11 issue and commence implementing a plan to enhance, as
12 appropriate, security operations at airports during the
13 COVID–19 national emergency in order to reduce risk of
14 the spread of the coronavirus at passenger screening
15 checkpoints and among the TSA workforce.

16 (b) **CONTENTS.**—The plan required under subsection
17 (a) shall include the following:

18 (1) An identification of best practices developed
19 in response to the coronavirus among foreign gov-
20 ernments, airports, and air carriers conducting avia-
21 tion security screening operations, as well as among
22 Federal agencies conducting similar security screen-
23 ing operations outside of airports, including in loca-
24 tions where the spread of the coronavirus has been
25 successfully contained, that could be further inte-

1 grated into the United States aviation security sys-
2 tem.

3 (2) Specific operational changes to aviation se-
4 curity screening operations informed by the identi-
5 fication of best practices under paragraph (1) that
6 could be implemented without degrading aviation se-
7 curity and a corresponding timeline and costs for
8 implementing such changes.

9 (c) CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out the identi-
10 fication of best practices under subsection (b), the Admin-
11 istrator shall take into consideration the following:

12 (1) Aviation security screening procedures and
13 practices in place at security screening locations, in-
14 cluding procedures and practices implemented in re-
15 sponse to the coronavirus.

16 (2) Volume and average wait times at each such
17 security screening location.

18 (3) Public health measures already in place at
19 each such security screening location.

20 (4) The feasibility and effectiveness of imple-
21 menting similar procedures and practices in loca-
22 tions where such are not already in place.

23 (5) The feasibility and potential benefits to se-
24 curity, public health, and travel facilitation of con-
25 tinuing any procedures and practices implemented in

1 response to the COVID–19 national emergency be-
2 yond the end of such emergency.

3 (d) CONSULTATION.—In developing the plan required
4 under subsection (a), the Administrator may consult with
5 public and private stakeholders and the TSA workforce,
6 including through the labor organization certified as the
7 exclusive representative of full- and part-time non-super-
8 visory TSA personnel carrying out screening functions
9 under section 44901 of title 49, U.S. Code.

10 (e) SUBMISSION.—Upon issuance of the plan re-
11 quired under subsection (a), the Administrator shall sub-
12 mit the plan to the Committee on Homeland Security of
13 the House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-
14 merce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

15 (f) ISSUANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION.—The Admin-
16 istrator shall not be required to issue or implement, as
17 the case may be, the plan required under subsection (a)
18 upon the termination of the COVID–19 national emer-
19 gency except to the extent the Administrator determines
20 such issuance or implementation, as the case may be, to
21 be feasible and beneficial to security screening operations.

22 (g) GAO REVIEW.—Not later than 1 year after the
23 issuance of the plan required under subsection (a) (if such
24 plan is issued in accordance with subsection (f)), the
25 Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to

1 the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of
2 Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,
3 Science, and Transportation of the Senate a review, if ap-
4 propriate, of such plan and any efforts to implement such
5 plan.

6 (h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
8 trator” means the Administrator of the Transpor-
9 tation Security Administration.

10 (2) CORONAVIRUS.—The term “coronavirus”
11 has the meaning given such term in section 506 of
12 the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supple-
13 mental Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116–
14 123).

15 (3) COVID–19 NATIONAL EMERGENCY.—The
16 term “COVID–19 national emergency” means the
17 national emergency declared by the President under
18 the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et
19 seq.) on March 13, 2020, with respect to the
20 coronavirus.

21 (4) PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STAKEHOLDERS.—
22 The term “public and private stakeholders” has the
23 meaning given such term in section 114(t)(1)(C) of
24 title 49, United States Code.

