

.....  
(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To establish programs and issue regulations to increase accessible transportation for individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. TITUS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To establish programs and issue regulations to increase accessible transportation for individuals 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 “Disability Access to  
5 Transportation Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) According to the Centers for Disease Con-  
2           trol and Prevention, 1 in 4 U.S. adults has a dis-  
3           ability.

4           (2) Section 2(b) of the Americans with Disabil-  
5           ities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101) recognized that  
6           individuals with disabilities face discrimination when  
7           using transportation services and sought to provide  
8           “a clear and comprehensive national mandate for the  
9           elimination of discrimination against individuals with  
10          disabilities”.

11          (3) Thirty-five years after the enactment of the  
12          Americans with Disabilities Act, individuals with dis-  
13          abilities continue to face systemic discrimination and  
14          a lack of accessible transportation options.

15          (4) Transportation is a core component of inde-  
16          pendent living; without the ability to easily move  
17          from one location to another, especially to drop a  
18          child off at day care, arrive at work on time, or run  
19          basic errands, true community living is impossible.

20          (5) Technology is changing the way the trans-  
21          portation industry provides services.

22          (6) Paratransit services often use outdated  
23          methods for dispatch and routing. Paratransit riders  
24          are not able to track the status of their rides and  
25          are often given 30 minute or longer pick-up windows

1 before or after the rider's desired departure time.  
2 Lengthy pick-up windows result in uncertainty about  
3 driver arrival times.

4 (7) The majority of paratransit services do not  
5 allow riders to book day-of services. In such cases,  
6 riders are required to book trips at least 1 day prior.  
7 Without a same-day service solution, riders have no  
8 way to address urgent healthcare, employment or  
9 other needs that arise. Adding this capability to  
10 paratransit services would be hugely impactful to  
11 riders.

12 (8) As technology continues to change the way  
13 people move from one place to another, the transpor-  
14 tation sector, including Federal agencies, local tran-  
15 sit systems, and private entities must innovate and  
16 provide services in a way that increases access to  
17 these services and empowers individuals with disabil-  
18 ities to travel independently in their communities.

19 **SEC. 3. ONE-STOP PARATRANSIT PILOT PROGRAM.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the  
21 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transpor-  
22 tation shall establish a one-stop paratransit pilot program.

23 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the pilot program  
24 under this section is to develop or expand paratransit pro-  
25 grams carried out pursuant to the ADA to provide for at

1 least 1 stop of at least 15 minutes outside of the vehicle  
2 during a paratransit trip to prevent long wait times be-  
3 tween multiple trips that unduly limit an individual's abil-  
4 ity to complete essential tasks.

5 (c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—An entity eligible to partici-  
7 pate in the pilot program is a transit agency that  
8 agrees to use the existing operator of the paratransit  
9 service and its workforce, such workforce to be di-  
10 rectly employed by the eligible entity or its con-  
11 tractor, to implement the pilot program and to track  
12 and share information as the Secretary requires, in-  
13 cluding—

14 (A) number of ADA paratransit trips con-  
15 ducted each year;

16 (B) requested time of each paratransit  
17 trip;

18 (C) scheduled time of each paratransit  
19 trip;

20 (D) actual pickup time for each para-  
21 transit trip;

22 (E) average length of a stop in the middle  
23 of a ride as allowed by this section;

24 (F) any complaints received from a para-  
25 transit rider;

1 (G) rider satisfaction with paratransit  
2 services; and

3 (H) after the completion of the pilot pro-  
4 gram, an assessment by the eligible entity of its  
5 capacity to continue a one-stop program inde-  
6 pendently.

7 (2) PREFERENCE.—The Secretary shall give  
8 preference to entities that—

9 (A) have comparable data for the year  
10 prior to implementation of the pilot program  
11 that can be used by the Secretary and other or-  
12 ganizations, such as nonprofit organizations  
13 and advocacy organizations, for research pur-  
14 poses;

15 (B) plan to use the existing operator of the  
16 paratransit service and its workforce, such  
17 workforce to be directly employed by the eligible  
18 entity or its contractor, to implement the pilot  
19 program; and

20 (C) plan to use technology innovation to  
21 improve the rider experience and cost-effective-  
22 ness of ADA paratransit services, including—

23 (i) dynamic routing;

24 (ii) real-time tracking; and

1 (iii) scheduling same-day rides with  
2 on-demand capabilities.

3 (d) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to participate in  
4 the pilot program, an eligible entity shall submit to the  
5 Secretary an application at such time, in such manner,  
6 and containing such information as the Secretary may re-  
7 quire, including information on—

8 (1) methodology for informing the public of the  
9 pilot program;

10 (2) vehicles, personnel, and other resources that  
11 will be used to implement the pilot program; and

12 (3) if the applicant does not intend the pilot  
13 program to apply to the full area under the jurisdic-  
14 tion of the applicant, a required description of the  
15 geographic area in which the applicant intends the  
16 pilot program to apply.

17 (e) SELECTION.—The Secretary shall seek to achieve  
18 diversity of participants in the pilot program by selecting  
19 a range of eligible entities that includes at least 5 of each  
20 of the following:

21 (1) An eligible entity that serves an area with  
22 a population of 200,000 people or fewer.

23 (2) An eligible entity that serves an area with  
24 a population of over 200,000 people.

1           (3) An eligible entity that provides transpor-  
2           tation for rural communities.

3           (f) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the con-  
4           clusion of the first 15 pilot projects carried out under this  
5           section, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report  
6           on the results of the program, including the feasibility of  
7           developing and implementing one-stop programs for all  
8           ADA paratransit services.

9           (g) FUNDING.—

10           (1) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of  
11           the total cost of a project carried out under this sec-  
12           tion may not exceed 80 percent.

13           (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
14           There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
15           this section \$75,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
16           2025 through 2029.

17 **SEC. 4. PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES IN THE PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-**  
18 **WAY.**

19           Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment  
20           of this Act, the Attorney General shall issue such regula-  
21           tions as are necessary to adopt enforceable standards for  
22           new construction and alterations of pedestrian facilities in  
23           the public right-of-way that comply with the guidance  
24           issued by the Architectural and Transportation Barriers  
25           Compliance Board, pursuant to section 502(b)(3) of the

1 Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 792(b)(3)), under  
2 part 1190 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations.

3 **SEC. 5. REPORTING ACCESSIBILITY COMPLAINTS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation  
5 shall ensure that an individual who believes that he or she  
6 or a specific class of individuals has been subjected to dis-  
7 crimination on the basis of disability by a public entity  
8 may, by himself or herself or by an authorized representa-  
9 tive, easily file a complaint with the Department of Trans-  
10 portation.

11 (b) PROCEDURES.—Not later than 1 year after the  
12 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall imple-  
13 ment procedures that allow an individual to submit a com-  
14 plaint described in subsection (a) by phone, by mail-in  
15 form, and online through the website of the Office of Civil  
16 Rights of the Federal Transit Administration.

17 (c) NOTICE TO INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES.—  
18 Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of  
19 this Act, the Secretary shall require that each public tran-  
20 sit provider and contractor providing paratransit services  
21 shall include on a publicly available website of the service  
22 provider, any related mobile device application, and online  
23 service—

24 (1) the telephone number, or a comparable elec-  
25 tronic means of communication, for the disability as-

1 assistance hotline of the Office of Civil Rights of the  
2 Federal Transit Administration;

3 (2) notice that a consumer can file a disability-  
4 related complaint with the Office of Civil Rights of  
5 the Federal Transit Administration;

6 (3) an active link to the website of the Office  
7 of Civil Rights of the Federal Transit Administra-  
8 tion for an individual to file a disability-related com-  
9 plaint; and

10 (4) notice that an individual can file a dis-  
11 ability-related complaint with the local transit agen-  
12 cy and the process and any timelines for filing such  
13 a complaint.

14 (d) INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINTS.—Not later  
15 than 60 days after the last day of each fiscal year the  
16 Secretary shall publish a report that lists the disposition  
17 of complaints described in subsection (a), including—

18 (1) the number and type of complaints filed  
19 with Department of Transportation;

20 (2) the number of complaints investigated by  
21 the Department;

22 (3) the result of the complaints that were inves-  
23 tigated by the Department including whether the  
24 complaint was resolved—

25 (A) informally;

1 (B) by issuing a violation through a non-  
2 compliance Letter of Findings; or

3 (C) by other means, which shall be de-  
4 scribed in detail; and

5 (4) if a violation was issued for a complaint,  
6 whether the Department resolved the noncompliance  
7 by—

8 (A) reaching a voluntary compliance agree-  
9 ment with the entity;

10 (B) referring the matter to the Attorney  
11 General; or

12 (C) by other means, which shall be de-  
13 scribed in detail.

14 (e) REPORT.—Upon implementation of this section,  
15 the Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, issue a re-  
16 port composed of the information collected under this sec-  
17 tion for the preceding 5 years.

18 **SEC. 6. ACCESSIBILITY DATA PILOT PROGRAM.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the  
20 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish  
21 an accessibility data pilot program.

22 (b) PURPOSE.—In carrying out the pilot program,  
23 the Secretary shall develop or procure an accessibility data  
24 set and make that data set available to each eligible entity

1 selected to participate in the pilot program to improve the  
2 transportation planning of such eligible entities by—

3 (1) measuring the level of access by multiple  
4 transportation modes, including transportation net-  
5 work companies, to desired destinations, which may  
6 include connections between modes, including con-  
7 nections to—

8 (A) high-quality transit or rail service;

9 (B) safe bicycling corridors; and

10 (C) safe sidewalks that achieve compliance  
11 with applicable requirements of the ADA;

12 (2) disaggregating the level of access by mul-  
13 tiple transportation modes by a variety of population  
14 categories, which shall include—

15 (A) low-income populations;

16 (B) minority populations;

17 (C) age;

18 (D) disability such as sensory, cognitive,  
19 and physical, including wheelchair users; and

20 (E) geographical location; and

21 (3) assessing the change in accessibility that  
22 would result from new transportation investments.

23 (c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligible to par-  
24 ticipate in the pilot program is—

25 (1) a State;

1 (2) a metropolitan planning organization; or

2 (3) a rural transportation planning organiza-  
3 tion.

4 (d) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to participate in  
5 the pilot program, an entity shall submit to the Secretary  
6 an application at such time, in such manner, and con-  
7 taining such information as the Secretary may require, in-  
8 cluding information relating to—

9 (1) previous experience of the eligible entity  
10 measuring transportation access or other perform-  
11 ance management experience;

12 (2) the types of important destinations to which  
13 the eligible entity intends to measure access;

14 (3) the types of data disaggregation the eligible  
15 entity intends to pursue;

16 (4) a general description of the methodology the  
17 eligible entity intends to apply; and

18 (5) if the applicant does not intend the pilot  
19 program to apply to the full area under the jurisdic-  
20 tion of the applicant, a description of the geographic  
21 area in which the applicant intends the pilot pro-  
22 gram to apply.

23 (e) SELECTION.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall seek to  
25 achieve diversity of participants in the pilot program

1 by selecting a range of eligible entities that shall in-  
2 clude—

3 (A) States;

4 (B) metropolitan planning organizations  
5 that serve an area with a population of 200,000  
6 people or fewer;

7 (C) metropolitan planning organizations  
8 that serve an area with a population of over  
9 200,000 people; and

10 (D) rural transportation planning organi-  
11 zations.

12 (2) INCLUSIONS.—The Secretary shall seek to  
13 ensure that, among the eligible entities selected  
14 under paragraph (1) program participants rep-  
15 resent—

16 (A) a range of capacity and previous expe-  
17 rience with measuring transportation access;  
18 and

19 (B) a variety of proposed methodologies  
20 and focus areas for measuring level of access.

21 (f) DUTIES.—For each eligible entity participating in  
22 the pilot program, the Secretary shall—

23 (1) develop or acquire an accessibility data set  
24 described in subsection (b); and

25 (2) submit the data set to the eligible entity.

1 (g) METHODOLOGY.—In calculating the measures for  
2 the data set under the pilot program, the Secretary shall  
3 ensure that methodology is open source.

4 (h) AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary shall make an ac-  
5 cessibility data set under the pilot program available to—

6 (1) units of local government within the juris-  
7 diction of the eligible entity participating in the pilot  
8 program; and

9 (2) researchers.

10 (i) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the last  
11 date on which the Secretary submits data sets to the eligi-  
12 ble entity under subsection (f), the Secretary shall submit  
13 to Congress a report on the results of the program, includ-  
14 ing the feasibility of developing and providing periodic ac-  
15 cessibility data sets for all States, regions, and localities.

16 (j) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall carry out the  
17 pilot program using amounts made available to the Sec-  
18 retary for administrative expenses to carry out programs  
19 under the authority of the Secretary.

20 (k) SUNSET.—The pilot program shall terminate on  
21 the date that is 8 years after the date on which the pilot  
22 program is implemented.

23 **SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.**

24 In this Act:

1           (1) ADA.—The term “ADA” means the Ameri-  
2           cans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101  
3           et seq.).

4           (2) STATE.—The term “State” means each of  
5           the several States, the District of Columbia, and any  
6           commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United  
7           States.

8           (3) TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANY.—  
9           The term “transportation network company”—

10           (A) means a corporation, partnership, sole  
11           proprietorship, or other entity, that uses an on-  
12           line-enabled application or digital network to  
13           connect riders to drivers affiliated with the enti-  
14           ty in order for the driver to transport the rider  
15           using a vehicle owned, leased, or otherwise au-  
16           thorized for use by the driver to a point chosen  
17           by the rider; and

18           (B) does not include a shared-expense car-  
19           pool or vanpool arrangement that is not in-  
20           tended to generate profit for the driver.