

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5897

To amend title 23, United States Code, to improve access to automated external defibrillators at interstate transportation facilities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 31, 2025

Mr. VAN DREW (for himself and Ms. GILLEN) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend title 23, United States Code, to improve access to automated external defibrillators at interstate transportation facilities, 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 “Public Access to
5 Defibrillation in Transportation Facilities Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Sudden cardiac arrest (in this section re-
9 ferred to as “SCA”) is a leading cause of death in

1 the United States, with an estimated 356,000 out-
2 of-hospital cardiac arrests occurring annually.

3 (2) Automated external defibrillators (in this
4 section referred to as “AEDs”) are a vital tool in re-
5 sponding to SCA, as they are capable of delivering
6 a life-saving shock to restore the heart’s natural
7 rhythm.

8 (3) There is a need for quick response times in
9 cases of SCA, as every minute that passes without
10 defibrillation decreases the likelihood of survival by
11 7 to 10 percent.

12 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
13 gress that Federal agencies, States, and municipalities
14 should accelerate efforts to deploy AEDs in locations that
15 are frequented by large crowds.

16 **SEC. 3. EXPANSION OF SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK**
17 **GRANT PROGRAM TO FUND AED DEPLOY-**
18 **MENT.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 133(b) of title 23, United
20 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
21 lowing:

22 “(25) Projects to purchase and deploy auto-
23 mated external defibrillators for use at transpor-
24 tation facilities otherwise eligible for assistance
25 under this section.

1 “(26) Projects to develop and implement writ-
2 ten emergency action plans for responding to med-
3 ical emergencies at transportation facilities otherwise
4 eligible for assistance under this section, including
5 the use of automated external defibrillators.”.

6 (b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of
7 Transportation, in consultation with the Secretary of
8 Health and Human Services and the Director of the Cen-
9 ters for Disease Control and Prevention, shall provide
10 technical assistance to States and local officials in devel-
11 oping the written emergency action plans referred to in
12 section 133(b)(26) of title 23, United States Code (as
13 added by subsection (a) of this section).

14 **SEC. 4. DEPLOYMENT OF AEDS IN INTERSTATE TRANSPOR-**
15 **TATION FACILITIES.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation,
17 in consultation with the Secretary of Health and Human
18 Services, shall issue—

19 (1) recommendations for the deployment of
20 automated external defibrillators (in this section re-
21 ferred to as “AEDs”) at interstate transportation
22 facilities based on best practices for the placement
23 and maintenance of AEDs; and

24 (2) guidelines to assist any owner or operator
25 of an interstate transportation facility in developing

1 and implementing for such facility a written emer-
2 gency action plan for responding to medical emer-
3 gencies, including the use of AEDs.

4 (b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of
5 Transportation shall provide technical assistance to own-
6 ers and operators of interstate transportation facilities in
7 complying with the recommendations and guidelines
8 issued under subsection (a).

9 (c) ENFORCEMENT.—In carrying out financial assist-
10 ance programs of the Department of Transportation, in-
11 cluding its components, the Secretary of Transportation
12 may impose such additional terms and conditions as the
13 Secretary determines necessary to provide for adoption of
14 the recommendations and guidelines issued under sub-
15 section (a).

16 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 (1) INTERSTATE SYSTEM.—The term “Inter-
18 state System” has the meaning given such term in
19 section 101 of title 23, United States Code.

20 (2) INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION FACILITY.—
21 The term “interstate transportation facility” in-
22 cludes—

23 (A) a bus terminal, a ferry terminal, and
24 a rail passenger transportation terminal;

1 (B) a highway rest area on the Interstate
2 System;

3 (C) a vehicle used to provide rail passenger
4 transportation, other than a vehicle used exclu-
5 sively to provide transportation between station
6 stops located within 15 minutes of each other
7 (as determined using times established in public
8 timetables); and

9 (D) such other facilities as the Secretary
10 of Transportation determines appropriate.

11 (3) RAIL PASSENGER TRANSPORTATION.—The
12 term “rail passenger transportation” includes trans-
13 portation provided by a rail fixed guideway public
14 transportation system, an intercity passenger rail
15 system, or a commuter rail passenger transportation
16 system that receives Federal assistance, as identified
17 by the Secretary of Transportation.

18 **SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

19 This Act, and the amendments made by this Act,
20 shall apply beginning on the date that is 180 days after
21 the date of enactment of this Act.

○