

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7928

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue certain regulations with respect to the safe transportation of lithium-ion cells or batteries, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 12, 2026

Ms. TITUS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to issue certain regulations with respect to the safe transportation of lithium-ion cells or batteries, 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 “Thermal Runaway Re-
5 duction Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

(1) LITHIUM-ION CELL OR BATTERY.—The term “lithium-ion cell or battery”—

(A) means a rechargeable electrochemical cell or battery in which the positive and negative electrodes are both intercalation compounds constructed with no metallic lithium in either electrode; but

(B) does not include a cell or battery described in subsections (c) and (g)(2) of section 173.185 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations.

(2) THERMAL RUNAWAY.—The term “thermal runaway” means an uncontrolled increase of cell temperature caused by exothermic reactions inside cells and batteries, including lithium-ion cells or batteries.

SEC. 3. REQUIREMENTS FOR SAFE TRANSPORT OF LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES.

Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall—

(1) work with the United Nations Subcommittee of Experts on the Transportation of Dangerous Goods to revise the design tests in subsection 38.3 of the UN Manual of Tests and Criteria to develop an impact test for lithium-ion cells or batteries

1 installed in transport units and transported under
2 UN 3536 to allow improved ability to withstand
3 forces experienced in transport accidents without
4 going into thermal runaway;

5 (2) issue such regulations as are necessary to
6 amend section 173.185 of title 49, Code of Federal
7 Regulations, to require lithium-ion cells or batteries
8 to be offered for commercial transport at a state of
9 charge not exceeding 30 percent of the rated capac-
10 ity of such cells or batteries (determined through the
11 guidance and methodology under section 38.3.2.3 of
12 the Manual of Tests and Criteria of the United Na-
13 tions) and authorize the transportation of lithium-
14 ion cells or batteries at a state of charge greater
15 than 30 percent of the rated capacity of such cells
16 or batteries only under conditions approved by the
17 Associate Administrator for Hazardous Materials of
18 the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Ad-
19 ministration in accordance with the requirements in
20 subpart H of part 107 of such title;

21 (3) issue such regulations as are necessary or
22 promulgate final guidance on the safe transportation
23 of damaged, defective, or recalled lithium-ion cells or
24 batteries, and such regulations or guidance shall in-
25 clude guidance on the packaging, movement, and

1 disposal of damaged, defective, or recalled lithium-
2 ion cells or batteries; and

3 (4) every five years review the regulations and
4 guidelines under this section and update them, as
5 appropriate, to account for other emerging batteries
6 or cells that pose a risk of thermal runaway as a re-
7 sult from a fire during commercial transport.

8 **SEC. 4. GRANT PROGRAM FOR INNOVATIVE THERMAL RUN-**
9 **AWAY SUPPRESSION STRATEGIES.**

10 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator of the
11 Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
12 shall conduct a program to provide grants to eligible enti-
13 ties to test and study—

14 (1) the effectiveness of innovative technologies
15 and methods to suppress thermal runaway in lith-
16 ium-ion cells or batteries transported under UN
17 3536 in commercial transport units;

18 (2) the impact of the state of charge of a bat-
19 tery or cell being transported under UN 3536 on
20 methods to suppress thermal runaway in lithium-ion
21 cells or batteries; and

22 (3) methods for emergency responders to verify
23 the state of charge of a battery or cell being trans-
24 ported under UN 3536 experiencing thermal run-

1 away as a result of a fire or crash during commer-
2 cial transport.

3 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—Facilities that specialize in fire
4 suppression testing shall be eligible to receive grants under
5 this section.

6 (c) PRIORITIZATION.—In issuing grants under this
7 section, the Administrator shall prioritize projects that
8 test suppression technologies that—

9 (1) do not contain perfluoroalkyl and
10 polyfluoroalkyl substances; and

11 (2) are cost effective.

12 (d) TIMING.—

13 (1) APPLICATION PERIOD.—The Administrator
14 shall—

15 (A) finalize grant eligibility requirements
16 and begin soliciting applications not later than
17 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act;

18 (B) provide 90 days for entities to submit
19 to the Administrator applications for such a
20 grant;

21 (C) select recipients of grants under this
22 section not later than 180 days after the date
23 on which solicitation begins under subpara-
24 graph (A); and

1 (D) in any case in which a deadline under
2 subparagraph (A) or (C) is not met, submit to
3 Congress a report containing any reasons either
4 such deadline was not met.

5 (2) GRANT COMPLETION.—Each grant recipient
6 shall conclude the project for which a grant is
7 awarded not later than 18 months after funds are
8 provided to such recipient.

9 (e) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out
10 the program under this section, the Administrator shall
11 ensure that each grant recipient, upon conclusion of an
12 activity funded by a grant under this section, submits to
13 the Administrator a report on the findings of any tests
14 conducted pursuant to such grant.

15 (f) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than 120 days
16 after the receipt of all reports required under subsection
17 (e), the Administrator shall review the findings submitted
18 by grant awardees and submit to the Committee on Trans-
19 portation and Infrastructure of the House of Representa-
20 tives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
21 Transportation of the Senate a report containing—

22 (1) any findings related to the grant program
23 under this section, including which fire suppression
24 tools and techniques were found to be most effective

1 at suppressing thermal runaway resulting from a
2 lithium-ion cell or battery fire;

3 (2) the impact of the state of charge of a bat-
4 tery on the techniques and tools studied under the
5 grant program;

6 (3) information on the best methods to verify
7 the state of charge of a lithium-ion battery or cell
8 after a nonconsumptive event and how that informa-
9 tion can inform decisions about how to safely miti-
10 gate thermal runaway; and

11 (4) recommendations on whether, based on such
12 review, updated guidance or training of the Pipeline
13 and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration is
14 necessary.

15 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
16 authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for the period
17 of fiscal years 2027 through 2031 to carry out this sec-
18 tion.

19 **SEC. 5. INCREASING ACCESS TO THERMAL RUNAWAY SUP-**
20 **PRESSION TOOLS.**

21 (a) LITHIUM FIRE SAFETY GRANTS.—Section 5107
22 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at
23 the end the following:

24 “(j) LITHIUM FIRE SAFETY GRANTS.—The Sec-
25 retary shall establish a competitive grant program making

1 grants available to volunteer or career fire departments,
2 or combination of such fire departments, for—

3 “(1) equipment, including blankets to suppress
4 thermal runaway, portable fire suppression agents,
5 and other equipment that the Secretary determines
6 is appropriate, to support the suppression of thermal
7 runaway resulting from the transportation of lith-
8 ium-ion cells or batteries;

9 “(2) field-deployed residual-energy assessment
10 and cell-integrity diagnostics;

11 “(3) environmental monitoring suites and run-
12 off control to assist with cleanup after a thermal
13 runaway event; and

14 “(4) access and containment tools, over-pack
15 systems, and packaging for damaged, defective, or
16 recalled lithium-ion batteries or cells.

17 “(k) TIMING OF GRANT PROCESS.—The Secretary
18 shall ensure that the process for each grant awarded
19 under this section provides for the following:

20 “(1) A period of 90 days for entities to submit
21 to the Administrator applications for such a grant.

22 “(2) Selection of the recipients of grants not
23 later than 180 days after the date on which solicita-
24 tion of such grants is initiated.”.

1 (b) TIMING.—The Secretary of Transportation shall
2 finalize grant eligibility requirements and begin soliciting
3 applications for the grant program established under sec-
4 tion 5107(j) of title 49, United States Code, not later than
5 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

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