

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9285

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a Heat Illness AI Surveillance and Response Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 11, 2026

Mr. LAWLER (for himself and Mr. STANTON) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a Heat Illness AI Surveillance and Response Program, 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 “Heat Emergency As-
5 sessment and Tracking using AI Act” or the “HEAT AI
6 Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress finds that—

9 (1) heat-related deaths and illnesses are signifi-
10 cantly under reported due to—

1 (A) the limitations of coding under the
2 International Classification of Diseases; and

3 (B) inconsistent documentation by medical
4 practitioners; and

5 (2) artificial intelligence, including large lan-
6 guage models, can analyze unstructured clinical data
7 and local weather information to identify likely heat-
8 related cases missed by current systems.

9 **SEC. 3. STUDY ON HEAT-RELATED ILLNESS.**

10 Not later than 2 years after the date of the enact-
11 ment of this Act, the Secretary shall conduct a study on
12 the incidence of heat-related illness and death in the
13 United States, including coordinating with State depart-
14 ments of health and vital statistics to determine how many
15 deaths in the United States may be attributable to heat-
16 related illness as a primary, secondary, or tertiary cause
17 of death.

18 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT PROGRAM.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out a
20 program under which the Secretary will make grants to
21 not fewer than 3, and not more than 5, eligible entities.
22 Such program shall be known as the “Heat Illness AI Sur-
23 veillance and Response Program”.

24 (b) APPLICATIONS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a
2 grant under the program, an eligible entity shall
3 submit to the Secretary an application in such form
4 and manner, and containing such information, as
5 the Secretary may require.

6 (2) CONTENTS.—An application of an eligible
7 entity referred to in paragraph (1) shall contain, at
8 a minimum—

9 (A) an implementation plan developed by
10 the eligible entity to carry out activities speci-
11 fied in subsection (c);

12 (B) an identification of the partners the el-
13 igible entity will work with to develop or use an
14 AI tool described in subsection (c);

15 (C) if such AI tool has been previously de-
16 veloped, an identification of the AI tool; and

17 (D) a description of the steps the applicant
18 will take to ensure that use of an AI tool de-
19 scribed in subsection (c) by the applicant is in
20 compliance with applicable Federal and State
21 privacy laws.

22 (c) USE OF GRANTS.—An eligible entity that receives
23 a grant under the program shall use the amounts of the
24 grant—

25 (1) to develop and test AI tools that—

1 (A) are capable of analyzing medical
2 records, death certificates, and coroner reports
3 for indications of heat-related illness (including
4 if heat-related illness was a primary, secondary,
5 or tertiary cause of death); and

6 (B) integrate localized weather data and
7 occupational information to improve accuracy;

8 (2) to implement such AI tools for the purpose
9 of conducting surveillance of heat-related deaths and
10 illnesses;

11 (3) to develop heat response protocols to reduce
12 and prevent heat-related illness and death;

13 (4) to conduct clinician training on the identi-
14 fication, diagnosis, and management of heat-related
15 illness; and

16 (5) to conduct community outreach to increase
17 awareness of heat-related illness symptoms, risk fac-
18 tors, and available prevention and treatment re-
19 sources to develop heat response protocols.

20 (d) SELECTION OF GRANT RECIPIENTS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award
22 grants to eligible entities under the program on a
23 competitive basis.

1 (2) CRITERIA.—In awarding such grants, the
2 Secretary select eligible entities that represent di-
3 verse climates and populations and shall include—

4 (A) at least one urban community; and

5 (B) at least one rural community.

6 (e) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the program,
7 the Secretary shall consult with—

8 (1) medicolegal death investigation profes-
9 sionals of the Department of Justice;

10 (2) regional, State, and local departments of
11 health; and

12 (3) relevant stakeholders, including utility com-
13 panies.

14 (f) PRIVACY AND ETHICS.—In carrying out the pro-
15 gram, the Secretary shall—

16 (1) establish requirements to ensure compliance
17 with regulations promulgated under the Health In-
18 surance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996
19 (commonly known as “HIPAA”; Public Law 104–
20 191) and other applicable Federal privacy laws and
21 regulations; and

22 (2) establish an AI advisory board to ensure
23 transparency, community input, fairness, accuracy,
24 and equitable performance of AI models across de-
25 mographic and geographic populations.

1 (g) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

2 (1) PROGRESS REPORTS.—Not later than 1
3 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and an-
4 nually thereafter until the date of submission of the
5 final report under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall
6 submit to Congress a report containing a description
7 of—

8 (A) the progress made by the Secretary in
9 establishing and implementing the program;

10 (B) the accuracy of data collected under
11 the program relating to heat-related deaths and
12 illnesses; and

13 (C) public health outcomes, including
14 trends in heat-related morbidity and mortality
15 and the effectiveness of AI-enabled surveillance
16 and response interventions.

17 (2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than September
18 30, 2031, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a
19 final report containing—

20 (A) an evaluation of the overall effective-
21 ness of the program; and

22 (B) a description of the costs and benefits
23 of individual activities carried out under the
24 program.

1 (h) ISSUANCE OF NATIONAL GUIDELINES.—Not
2 later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this
3 Act, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and
4 Prevention shall issue national guidelines to standardize
5 documentation and reporting of heat-related illnesses and
6 deaths, including improved use of external cause codes
7 used under the International Classification of Diseases.
8 Such guidelines may be issued at such time as determined
9 appropriate by the Director, regardless of the date upon
10 which the program under this Act concludes.

11 (i) RECOMMENDATIONS.—Not later than September
12 30, 2031, the Secretary shall—

13 (1) issue recommendations based on the results
14 of the program; and

15 (2) using such recommendations, advise Federal
16 department and agencies on broadly deploying AI
17 technologies for the purpose of tracking heat-related
18 deaths nationwide, including best practices for the
19 design, acquisition, development, modernization, use,
20 operation, sharing, risk management, auditing, and
21 performance of such technologies for such purpose.

22 (j) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

23 (1) AI.—The term “AI” refers to artificial in-
24 telligence.

1 (2) AI TOOL.—The term “AI tool” means a
2 software application that uses AI.

3 (3) ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE.—The term “ar-
4 tificial intelligence” has the meaning given such
5 term in section 5002 of the National Artificial Intel-
6 ligence Initiative Act of 2020 (15 U.S.C. 9401).

7 (4) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
8 ty” means a public or private entity (including a
9 hospital system, academic medical center, State or
10 local health department, or qualified research insti-
11 tution) that has demonstrated capacity to carry out
12 activities under the program, as determined by the
13 Secretary.

14 (5) PROGRAM.—The term “program” means
15 the Heat Illness AI Surveillance and Response Pro-
16 gram referred to in subsection (a).

17 (6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
18 the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting
19 through the Director of the National Institutes of
20 Health and the Director of the Centers for Disease
21 Control and Prevention

22 (k) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
23 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
24 \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

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