

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1474

To codify the PARTS program of the Department of Transportation, and
for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 10, 2025

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. YOUNG) introduced the following bill; which
was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
Transportation

A BILL

To codify the PARTS program of the Department of
Transportation, 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 “Vehicle Safety Re-
5 search Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. PARTS PROGRAM.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) EXTERNAL ORGANIZATION.—The term “ex-
9 ternal organization” means a nonprofit organization

1 or institution of higher education with experience
 2 fulfilling contracts with Federal agencies—

3 (A) to carry out independent research; or

4 (B) to administer federally-funded research
 5 and development centers.

6 (2) PARTS PROGRAM.—The term “PARTS
 7 program” means the Partnership for Analytics Re-
 8 search in Traffic Safety (PARTS) program estab-
 9 lished by subsection (b).

10 (3) PARTS PROGRAM PARTICIPANT.—The term
 11 “PARTS program participant” means an entity that
 12 has—

13 (A) voluntarily chosen to participate in the
 14 PARTS program; and

15 (B) been accepted as a participant in the
 16 PARTS program under the charter developed
 17 pursuant to subsection (b).

18 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
 19 the Secretary of Transportation.

20 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the
 21 Department of Transportation a program, to be known as
 22 the “Partnership for Analytics Research in Traffic Safety
 23 (PARTS) program”, which shall be a continuation of the
 24 Partnership for Analytics Research in Traffic Safety
 25 (PARTS) program of the National Highway Traffic Safe-

1 ty Administration (as in effect on the day before the date
2 of enactment of this Act).

3 (c) GOVERNANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the
4 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consulta-
5 tion with PARTS program participants and any external
6 organization that enters into a contract with the Secretary
7 under subsection (d), shall develop a charter that shall
8 govern the PARTS program.

9 (d) PARTS PROGRAM RESEARCH.—The Secretary
10 shall enter into a contract with an external organization
11 to conduct research to gather, analyze, and share certain
12 traffic safety data and information pursuant to the
13 PARTS program.

14 (e) INFORMATION USED FOR RESEARCH PURSUANT
15 TO THE PARTS PROGRAM.—Data submitted by PARTS
16 program participants under the PARTS program shall be
17 submitted in accordance with the charter developed under
18 subsection (c), which shall, at minimum—

19 (1) ensure that all data—

20 (A) remains under the ownership and con-
21 trol of the applicable PARTS program partici-
22 pant; and

23 (B) except as provided in paragraph (2), is
24 not accessible by any other entity other than an

1 external organization that enters into a contract
2 with the Secretary under subsection (d);

3 (2) prevent PARTS program participant data
4 or data analysis from being shared with any other
5 PARTS program participant without express per-
6 mission granted through a process agreed to pursu-
7 ant to—

8 (A) the charter developed under subsection
9 (c); or

10 (B) a cooperative agreement entered into
11 between a PARTS program participant and an
12 external organization;

13 (3) institute safeguards in data gathering and
14 handling by an external organization pursuant to
15 this subsection;

16 (4) prevent reverse engineering aggregate data
17 analysis results or other attempts to derive the iden-
18 tity of PARTS program participants from data anal-
19 ysis results;

20 (5) outline the intended use of data analysis re-
21 sults, which shall only include—

22 (A) the development, deployment, safety
23 assessment, and regulation of safety technology;
24 and

1 (B) the development of safety counter-
2 measures; and

3 (6) clarify that the participation of a PARTS
4 program participant in the PARTS program does
5 not affect or satisfy any other existing Federal regu-
6 latory requirements, including reporting require-
7 ments mandated by the National Highway Traffic
8 Safety Administration.

9 (f) CONFIDENTIALITY.—Pursuant to section
10 552(b)(3)(B) of title 5, United States Code, any report,
11 data, communications between, work product, or other in-
12 formation voluntarily submitted to the Secretary or an ex-
13 ternal organization that enters into a contract with the
14 Secretary under subsection (d) for purposes relating to
15 conducting research pursuant to the PARTS program
16 shall not be disclosed to the public.

17 (g) APPLICABILITY OF PAPERWORK REDUCTION
18 ACT.—Subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United
19 States Code (commonly known as the “Paperwork Reduc-
20 tion Act”), shall not apply to any report, data, commu-
21 nication, work product, or other information gathered
22 under the PARTS program.

23 (h) NO REGULATIONS REQUIRED.—Notwithstanding
24 any other provision of law, the Secretary shall not be re-

1 quired to promulgate any regulations to carry out the
 2 PARTS program.

3 (i) SAVINGS PROVISION.—This section shall not
 4 apply to any report, data, communication, work product,
 5 or other information—

6 (1) required to be submitted to the Secretary
 7 under any other provision of law; or

8 (2) otherwise available to the Secretary.

9 (j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
 10 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the PARTS
 11 program—

12 (1) for fiscal year 2026, \$4,000,000;

13 (2) for fiscal year 2027, \$6,000,000;

14 (3) for fiscal year 2028, \$7,000,000;

15 (4) for fiscal year 2029, \$8,000,000; and

16 (5) for fiscal year 2030, \$9,000,000.

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