To require the Transportation Security Administration to issue a plan to improve security screening procedures at airports during the COVID-19 national emergency, and for other purposes.
A BILL

To require the Transportation Security Administration to issue a plan to improve security screening procedures at airports during the COVID–19 national emergency, and for other purposes.
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Security Screening Dur-
ing COVID–19 Act”.

SEC. 2. PLAN.

(a) In General.—Not later than 90 days after the
date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in co-
ordination with the Chief Medical Officer of the Department
of Homeland Security, and in consultation with the Sec-
retary of Health and Human Services and the Director of
the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall issue
and commence implementing a plan to enhance, as appro-
priate, security operations at airports during the COVID–
19 national emergency in order to reduce risk of the spread
of the coronavirus at passenger screening checkpoints and
among the TSA workforce.

(b) CONTENTS.—The plan required under subsection
(a) shall include the following:

(1) An identification of best practices developed
in response to the coronavirus among foreign govern-
ments, airports, and air carriers conducting aviation
security screening operations, as well as among Fed-
eral agencies conducting similar security screening
operations outside of airports, including in locations
where the spread of the coronavirus has been successfully contained, that could be further integrated into the United States aviation security system.

(2) Specific operational changes to aviation security screening operations informed by the identification of best practices under paragraph (1) that could be implemented without degrading aviation security and a corresponding timeline and costs for implementing such changes.

(c) CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out the identification of best practices under subsection (b), the Administrator shall take into consideration the following:

(1) Aviation security screening procedures and practices in place at security screening locations, including procedures and practices implemented in response to the coronavirus.

(2) Volume and average wait times at each such security screening location.

(3) Public health measures already in place at each such security screening location.

(4) The feasibility and effectiveness of implementing similar procedures and practices in locations where such are not already in place.

(5) The feasibility and potential benefits to security, public health, and travel facilitation of con-
tinuing any procedures and practices implemented in response to the COVID–19 national emergency beyond the end of such emergency.

(d) CONSULTATION.—In developing the plan required under subsection (a), the Administrator may consult with public and private stakeholders and the TSA workforce, including through the labor organization certified as the exclusive representative of full- and part-time non-supervisory TSA personnel carrying out screening functions under section 44901 of title 49, U.S. Code.

(e) SUBMISSION.—Upon issuance of the plan required under subsection (a), the Administrator shall submit the plan to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(f) ISSUANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION.—The Administrator shall not be required to issue or implement, as the case may be, the plan required under subsection (a) upon the termination of the COVID–19 national emergency except to the extent the Administrator determines such issuance or implementation, as the case may be, to be feasible and beneficial to security screening operations.

(g) GAO REVIEW.—Not later than one year after the issuance of the plan required under subsection (a) (if such plan is issued in accordance with subsection (f)), the Comp-
troller General of the United States shall submit to the Com-
mittee on Homeland Security of the House of Representa-
tives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-
portation of the Senate a review, if appropriate, of such
plan and any efforts to implement such plan.

(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
trator” means the Administrator of the Transpor-
tation Security Administration.

(2) CORONAVIRUS.—The term “coronavirus” has
the meaning given such term in section 506 of the
Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supple-
mental Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116–
123).

(3) COVID–19 NATIONAL EMERGENCY.—The
term “COVID–19 national emergency” means the na-
tional emergency declared by the President under the
National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) on
March 13, 2020, with respect to the coronavirus.

(4) PUBLIC AND PRIVATE STAKEHOLDERS.—The
term “public and private stakeholders” has the mean-
ing given such term in section 114(t)(1)(C) of title 49,
United States Code.

(5) TSA.—The term “TSA” means the Trans-
portation Security Administration.
A BILL

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APRIL 30, 2021

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed.

H. R. 1877

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