

Union Calendar No.

117TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5315

[Report No. 117-]

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish in the Department of Transportation a drone infrastructure inspection grant program and a drone education and training grant program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 21, 2021

Mr. STANTON (for himself and Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

MAY --, 2022

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

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italics]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on September 21, 2021]

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish in the Department of Transportation a drone infrastructure inspection grant program and a drone education and training grant 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 “Drone Infrastructure*
5 *Inspection Grant Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. DRONE INFRASTRUCTURE INSPECTION GRANT PRO-**
7 **GRAM.**

8 (a) *AUTHORITY.*—*The Secretary of Transportation*
9 *shall establish a drone infrastructure inspection grant pro-*
10 *gram to make grants to governmental entities to facilitate*
11 *the use of eligible small unmanned aircraft systems to in-*
12 *crease efficiency, reduce costs, improve worker and commu-*
13 *nity safety, reduce carbon emissions, or meet other prior-*
14 *ities (as determined by the Secretary) related to critical in-*
15 *frastructure projects.*

16 (b) *USE OF GRANT AMOUNTS.*—*A governmental entity*
17 *may use a grant provided under this section to—*

18 (1) *purchase or lease eligible small unmanned*
19 *aircraft systems;*

20 (2) *support operational capabilities of eligible*
21 *small unmanned aircraft systems by the governmental*
22 *entity;*

23 (3) *contract for services performed with an eligi-*
24 *ble small unmanned aircraft system in circumstances*
25 *in which the governmental entity does not have the*

1 *resources or expertise to safely carry out or assist in*
2 *carrying out the activities described under subsection*
3 *(a); and*

4 *(4) support the program management capability*
5 *of the governmental entity to use an eligible small un-*
6 *manned aircraft system.*

7 *(c) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant*
8 *under this section, a governmental entity shall submit an*
9 *application to the Secretary at such time, in such form,*
10 *and containing such information as the Secretary may re-*
11 *quire, including an assurance that the governmental entity*
12 *or its contractor will comply with relevant federal regula-*
13 *tions.*

14 *(d) SELECTION OF APPLICANTS.—In selecting an ap-*
15 *plicant for a grant under this section, the Secretary shall*
16 *prioritize projects that propose to—*

17 *(1) carry out a critical infrastructure project in*
18 *a historically disadvantaged community; or*

19 *(2) address a safety risk in the inspection, oper-*
20 *ation, maintenance, repair, modernization, or con-*
21 *struction of an element of critical infrastructure.*

22 *(e) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this section shall be con-*
23 *strued as to interfere with an agreement between a govern-*
24 *mental entity and a labor union.*

1 (f) *REPORT TO CONGRESS.*—Not later than 1 year
2 after the first grant is provided under this section, the Sec-
3 retary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation
4 and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the
5 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of
6 the Senate a report that evaluates the program carried out
7 under this section, including—

8 (1) a description of the number of grants award-
9 ed;

10 (2) the amount of each grant;

11 (3) the activities funded under this section; and

12 (4) the effectiveness of such funded activities in
13 meeting the objectives described in subsection (a).

14 (g) *FUNDING.*—

15 (1) *FEDERAL SHARE.*—

16 (A) *IN GENERAL.*—Except as provided in
17 subparagraph (B), the Federal share of the cost
18 of a project carried out using a grant under this
19 section shall not exceed 80 percent of the total
20 project cost.

21 (B) *WAIVER.*—The Secretary may increase
22 the Federal share requirement under subpara-
23 graph (A) to up to 100 percent for a project car-
24 ried out using a grant under this section by a
25 governmental entity if such entity—

1 (i) submits a written application to
2 the Secretary requesting an increase in the
3 Federal share; and

4 (ii) demonstrates that the additional
5 assistance is necessary to facilitate the ac-
6 ceptance and full use of a grant under this
7 section, such as alleviating economic hard-
8 ship, meeting additional workforce needs, or
9 such other uses that the Secretary deter-
10 mines to be appropriate.

11 (2) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—
12 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
13 this section—

14 (A) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2023; and

15 (B) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2024.

16 **SEC. 3. DRONE EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE TRAINING**
17 **GRANT PROGRAM.**

18 (a) *AUTHORITY.*—The Secretary of Transportation
19 shall establish a drone education and training grant pro-
20 gram to make grants to educational institutions for work-
21 force training for eligible small unmanned aircraft system
22 technology.

23 (b) *USE OF GRANT AMOUNTS.*—Amounts from a grant
24 under this section shall be used in furtherance of activities

1 *authorized under sections 631 and 632 of the FAA Reau-*
2 *thorization Act 2018 (49 U.S.C. 40101 note).*

3 (c) *ELIGIBILITY.*—*To be eligible to receive a grant*
4 *under this section, an educational institution shall submit*
5 *an application to the Secretary at such time, in such form,*
6 *and containing such information as the Secretary may re-*
7 *quire.*

8 (d) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—*There are*
9 *authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—*
10 (1) *\$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2023; and*
11 (2) *\$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2024.*

12 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

13 *In this Act:*

14 (1) *CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.*—*The term*
15 *“critical infrastructure” has the meaning given such*
16 *term in section 1016(e) of the Critical Infrastructures*
17 *Protection Act of 2001 (42 U.S.C. 5195c(e)).*

18 (2) *CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT.*—*The*
19 *term “critical infrastructure project” means a project*
20 *for the inspection, operation, maintenance, repair,*
21 *modernization, or construction of an element of crit-*
22 *ical infrastructure, including mitigating environ-*
23 *mental hazards to such infrastructure.*

24 (3) *COVERED FOREIGN ENTITY.*—*The term “cov-*
25 *ered foreign entity” means an entity—*

1 (A) included on the Consolidated Screening
2 List or Entity List as designated by the Sec-
3 retary of Commerce;

4 (B) domiciled in the People’s Republic of
5 China or the Russian Federation;

6 (C) subject to influence or control by the
7 government of the People’s Republic of China or
8 by the Russian Federation; or

9 (D) is a subsidiary or affiliate of an entity
10 described in subparagraphs (A) through (C).

11 (4) *EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.*—The term
12 “educational institution” means an institution of
13 higher education (as defined in section 101 of the
14 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)) that
15 participates in a program authorized under sections
16 631 and 632 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018
17 (49 U.S.C. 40101 note).

18 (5) *ELEMENT OF CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.*—
19 The term “element of critical infrastructure” means a
20 critical infrastructure facility or asset, including pub-
21 lic bridges, tunnels, roads, highways, dams, electric
22 grid, water infrastructure, communication systems,
23 pipelines, or other related facilities or assets, as de-
24 fined by the Secretary.

1 (6) *ELIGIBLE SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYS-*
2 *TEM.—The term “eligible small unmanned aircraft*
3 *system” means a small unmanned aircraft system*
4 *manufactured or assembled by a company that is*
5 *domiciled in the United States and is not a covered*
6 *foreign entity.*

7 (7) *GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY.—The term “govern-*
8 *mental entity” means—*

9 (A) *a State, the District of Columbia, the*
10 *Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, a territory of the*
11 *United States, or a political subdivision thereof;*

12 (B) *a unit of local government;*

13 (C) *a Tribal Government;*

14 (D) *a metropolitan planning organization;*

15 *or*

16 (E) *a combination of the entities described*
17 *in subparagraphs (A) through (D).*

18 (8) *SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT; UNMANNED*
19 *AIRCRAFT; UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.—The terms*
20 *“small unmanned aircraft”, “unmanned aircraft”,*
21 *and “unmanned aircraft system” have the meanings*
22 *given such terms in section 44801 of title 49, United*
23 *States Code.*