

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1648

To establish a grant program for use of “internet of things” technologies in airports, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 17, 2023

Mr. NEHLS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To establish a grant program for use of “internet of things” technologies in airports, 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 “Airport Technology
5 and Efficiency Improvement Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. ELIGIBILITY OF SENSOR PROJECTS FOR AIRPORT**
7 **IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.**

8 Section 47119(a)(1)(B)(ii) of title 49, United States
9 Code, is amended by striking “cameras” and inserting
10 “sensors with the capability to detect travelers for security

1 purposes, such as cameras and Light Detection and Rang-
2 ing (commonly known as ‘LiDAR’),”.

3 **SEC. 3. NON-MOVEMENT AREA SURVEILLANCE SURFACE**
4 **DISPLAY SYSTEMS PILOT PROGRAM.**

5 (a) INCREASE IN NUMBER OF ELIGIBLE SPON-
6 SORS.—Section 47143(b)(1) of title 49, United States
7 Code, is amended by striking “5 eligible sponsors” and
8 inserting “10 eligible sponsors”.

9 (b) PRIORITY FOR LOW-LIGHT SENSORS.—Section
10 47143(b) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by
11 adding at the end the following:

12 “(3) PRIORITY.—In making grants under the
13 pilot program, the Administrator shall prioritize
14 projects utilizing sensors that in low-light and de-
15 graded visual conditions can categorize and distin-
16 guish between humans, animals, and other objects.”.

17 (c) CHANGE OF SUNSET DATE.—Section 47143(c) of
18 title 49, United States Code, is amended by striking “Oc-
19 tober 1, 2023” and inserting “October 1, 2028”.

20 **SEC. 4. SMART AIRPORTS PILOT PROGRAM.**

21 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subchapter I of chapter 471
22 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at
23 the end the following:

1 **“§ 47145. Smart airports pilot program**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Fed-
3 eral Aviation Administration shall establish and carry out
4 a pilot program (in this section referred to as the ‘Pro-
5 gram’) to support the acquisition and installation of ‘inter-
6 net of things’ technologies by airports to create a more
7 consumer-friendly and digitally connected airport experi-
8 ence. Under the Program, the Administrator shall make
9 grants, on a competitive basis, to airports to carry out eli-
10 gible projects described in subsection (b).

11 “(b) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—The Administrator may
12 make a grant under the Program only for a project that
13 facilitates the acquisition and installation by an airport
14 of sensor systems, software, passenger signals, or other
15 technologies consistent with the purposes of the Program,
16 including projects that facilitate—

17 “(1) the modernization of technologies to pro-
18 vide more efficient check-ins, shortened security
19 lines, and Wi-Fi and GPS upgrades, as well as im-
20 provements of aircraft turnaround times for on-time
21 boarding and flights; and

22 “(2) the acquisition of sensors and software
23 systems with the ability to provide efficiency gains in
24 airports, including shortening wait times and im-
25 proving traveler experience through smart signals in
26 parking garages, security lines, or airport commerce.

1 “(c) GRANTS.—

2 “(1) NUMBER.—The Administrator shall seek
3 to make grants under the Program to not fewer
4 than 5 airports.

5 “(2) AMOUNT.—No grant under the Program
6 may exceed \$2,000,000.

7 “(d) PRIORITY.—In making grants under the Pro-
8 gram, the Administrator shall prioritize projects that do
9 not collect facial and biometric data of passengers not
10 identified as a security threat.

11 “(e) SUNSET.—The authority to make grants under
12 this section shall terminate on September 30, 2029.

13 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
14 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out the Program
15 \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2029.”.

16 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chap-
17 ter 471 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by
18 inserting after the item relating to section 47144 the fol-
19 lowing new item:

“47145. Smart airports pilot program.”.

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