

S 763

Surface and Maritime Transportation Security Act

Congress: 115 (2017–2019, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Transportation and Public Works

Introduced: Mar 29, 2017

Current Status: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 251.

Latest Action: Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 251. (Oct 25, 2017)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/763>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Thune, John [R-SD]

Party: Republican • **State:** SD • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (7 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		Mar 29, 2017
Sen. Fischer, Deb [R-NE]	R · NE		Mar 29, 2017
Sen. Nelson, Bill [D-FL]	D · FL		Mar 29, 2017
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		Apr 4, 2017
Sen. Blunt, Roy [R-MO]	R · MO		Apr 4, 2017
Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA]	D · WA		Apr 4, 2017
Sen. Wicker, Roger F. [R-MS]	R · MS		Apr 4, 2017

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Reported By	Oct 25, 2017

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Transportation and Public Works

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

Surface and Maritime Transportation Security Act

This bill requires the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to: (1) assess, and implement a risk-based security strategy to address, the vulnerabilities of and risks to surface transportation and maritime transportation systems; (2) develop a management oversight strategy that identifies the parties responsible for implementing the security strategy; and (3) submit a report that describes a risk-based budget and resource allocation plan for surface transportation sectors that reflects the security strategy.

The TSA shall establish the Surface Transportation Security Advisory Committee to make recommendations pertaining to surface transportation security.

In addition, the bill:

- directs the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to expand the TSA's explosives detection canine team program and to deploy next generation technologies to detect nuclear material,
- requires the Government Accountability Office to study specified matters related to surface transportation,
- expands the permissible uses of railroad security improvement grants,
- requires the TSA to issue a decision on the use of a passenger vetting system by the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak),
- requires the TSA to establish a program to promote surface transportation security through the training of surface transportation operators and frontline employees,
- expands the transportation security card program to allow individuals subject to credentialing or a background check to apply for a transportation security card, and
- requires DHS to evaluate cargo-container scanning technologies.

The bill authorizes appropriations for FY2018-FY2021 for DHS to award surface transportation preparedness grants, subject to specified certification requirements.

Actions Timeline

- **Oct 25, 2017:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Reported by Senator Thune with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. With written report No. 115-178.
- **Oct 25, 2017:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 251.
- **Apr 5, 2017:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Mar 29, 2017:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 29, 2017:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.