

# HR 6223

D-BLOC Act

**Congress:** 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Transportation and Public Works

**Introduced:** Mar 12, 2020

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials. (Mar 13, 2020)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/6223>

## Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Lipinski, Daniel [D-IL-3]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** IL • **Chamber:** House

## Cosponsors (2 total)

| Cosponsor                   | Party / State | Role | Date Joined  |
|-----------------------------|---------------|------|--------------|
| Rep. Carson, Andre [D-IN-7] | D · IN        |      | Mar 12, 2020 |
| Rep. Cooper, Jim [D-TN-5]   | D · TN        |      | Mar 12, 2020 |

## Committee Activity

| Committee                                   | Chamber | Activity    | Date         |
|---|---------|-------------|--------------|
| Transportation and Infrastructure Committee | House   | Referred to | Mar 13, 2020 |

## Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Transportation and Public Works

## Related Bills

*No related bills are listed.*

## Don't BLock Our Communities Act or the D-BLOC Act

This bill addresses concerns related to blocked crossings. (A blocked crossing is a circumstance in which a train, railroad car, or locomotive engine is stopped or is standing in a manner that obstructs public travel at a crossing).

Specifically, the bill

- requires each railroad carrier to collect data on blocked crossings and directs the Department of Transportation (DOT) to incorporate such data into the national highway-rail crossing inventory;
- establishes a 10-minute limit on trains, locomotive, railroad cars, or other railroad equipment blocking crossings, with specified exceptions;
- authorizes DOT to issue civil penalties for each incident where a crossing is blocked by a standing train, locomotive, or rail equipment;
- requires DOT to issue regulations defining what is considered persistently or egregiously blocking a crossing, including taking into consideration the extent to which the blocked crossing poses a public safety hazard;
- does not apply to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (Amtrak) or commuter authorities;
- directs DOT to issue and publish a national strategy on how it plans to address blocked crossings; and
- requires each railroad carrier to establish and maintain a toll-free telephone service for rights-of-way over which it dispatches trains to directly receive calls reporting blocked crossings.

## Actions Timeline

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- **Mar 13, 2020:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials.
- **Mar 12, 2020:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 12, 2020:** Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.