

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

- **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.