

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4614

To amend the PROTECT Act to expand the national AMBER Alert system to territories of the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 4, 2019

Mr. SABLAN (for himself and Mrs. RADEWAGEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the PROTECT Act to expand the national AMBER Alert system to territories of the United States, 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 “AMBER Alert Nation-
5 wide Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. COOPERATION WITH DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND**
2 **SECURITY.**

3 Subtitle A of title III of the PROTECT Act (34
4 U.S.C. 20501 et seq.) is amended—

5 (1) in section 301—

6 (A) in subsection (b)—

7 (i) in paragraph (1), by inserting
8 “(including airports, maritime ports, bor-
9 der crossing areas and checkpoints, and
10 ports of exit from the United States)”
11 after “gaps in areas of interstate travel”;
12 and

13 (ii) in paragraphs (2) and (3), by in-
14 serting “, territories of the United States,
15 and tribal governments” after “States”;
16 and

17 (B) in subsection (d), by inserting “, the
18 Secretary of Homeland Security,” after “Sec-
19 retary of Transportation”; and

20 (2) in section 302—

21 (A) in subsection (b), in paragraphs (2),
22 (3), and (4) by inserting “, territorial, tribal,”
23 after “State”; and

24 (B) in subsection (c)—

- 1 (i) in paragraph (1), by inserting “,
 2 the Secretary of Homeland Security,” after
 3 “Secretary of Transportation”; and
 4 (ii) in paragraph (2), by inserting “,
 5 territorial, tribal,” after “State”.

6 **SEC. 3. AMBER ALERTS ALONG MAJOR TRANSPORTATION**
 7 **ROUTES.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 303 of the PROTECT
 9 Act (34 U.S.C. 20503) is amended—

10 (1) in the section heading, by inserting “**AND**
 11 **MAJOR TRANSPORTATION ROUTES**” after
 12 “**ALONG HIGHWAYS**”;

13 (2) in subsection (a)—

14 (A) by inserting “(referred to in this sec-
 15 tion as the ‘Secretary’)” after “Secretary of
 16 Transportation”; and

17 (B) by inserting “and at airports, mari-
 18 time ports, border crossing areas and check-
 19 points, and ports of exit from the United
 20 States” after “along highways”;

21 (3) in subsection (b)—

22 (A) in paragraph (1)—

23 (i) by striking “other motorist infor-
 24 mation systems to notify motorists” and
 25 inserting “other information systems to no-

1 tify motorists, aircraft passengers, ship
2 passengers, and travelers”; and

3 (ii) by inserting “, aircraft passengers,
4 ship passengers, and travelers” after “nec-
5 essary to notify motorists”; and

6 (B) in paragraph (2)—

7 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
8 “other motorist information systems to no-
9 tify motorists” and inserting “other infor-
10 mation systems to notify motorists, air-
11 craft passengers, ship passengers, and
12 travelers”;

13 (ii) in subparagraph (D), by inserting
14 “, aircraft passengers, ship passengers,
15 and travelers” after “support the notifica-
16 tion of motorists”;

17 (iii) in subparagraph (E), by inserting
18 “, aircraft passengers, ship passengers,
19 and travelers” after “motorists”, each
20 place it appears;

21 (iv) in subparagraph (F), by inserting
22 “, aircraft passengers, ship passengers,
23 and travelers” after “motorists”; and

1 (v) in subparagraph (G), by inserting
2 “, aircraft passengers, ship passengers,
3 and travelers” after “motorists”;

4 (4) in subsection (c), by striking “other motor-
5 ist information systems to notify motorists”, each
6 place it appears, and inserting “other information
7 systems to notify motorists, aircraft passengers, ship
8 passengers, and travelers”;

9 (5) by amending subsection (d) to read as fol-
10 lows:

11 “(d) FEDERAL SHARE.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
13 graph (2), the Federal share of the cost of any ac-
14 tivities funded by a grant under this section may not
15 exceed 80 percent.

16 “(2) WAIVER.—If the Secretary determines
17 that American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana
18 Islands, Puerto Rico, or the Virgin Islands of the
19 United States is unable to comply with the require-
20 ment under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall waive
21 such requirement.”;

22 (6) in subsection (g)—

23 (A) by striking “In this section” and in-
24 serting “In this subtitle”; and

1 (B) by striking “or Puerto Rico” and in-
 2 serting “American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico,
 3 the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Is-
 4 lands of the United States, and any other terri-
 5 tory of the United States”; and

6 (7) in subsection (h), by striking “fiscal year
 7 2004” and inserting “each of fiscal years 2019
 8 through 2023”.

9 (b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—
 10 The table of contents in section 1(b) of the PROTECT
 11 Act (Public Law 108–21) is amended by striking the item
 12 relating to section 303 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 303. Grant program for notification and communications systems along
 highways and major transportation routes for recovery of ab-
 ducted children.”.

13 **SEC. 4. AMBER ALERT COMMUNICATION PLANS IN THE**
 14 **TERRITORIES.**

15 Section 304 of the PROTECT Act (34 U.S.C. 20504)
 16 is amended—

17 (1) in subsection (b)(4), by inserting “a terri-
 18 torial government or” after “with”;

19 (2) by amending subsection (c) to read as fol-
 20 lows:

21 “(c) FEDERAL SHARE.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
 23 graph (2), the Federal share of the cost of any ac-

1 tivities funded by a grant under this section may not
2 exceed 50 percent.

3 “(2) WAIVER.—If the Attorney General deter-
4 mines that American Samoa, Guam, the Northern
5 Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands of
6 the United States, or an Indian tribe is unable to
7 comply with the requirement under paragraph (1),
8 the Attorney General shall waive such require-
9 ment.”; and

10 (3) in subsection (d), by inserting “, including
11 territories of the United States” before the period at
12 the end.

13 **SEC. 5. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years after the
15 date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
16 shall conduct a study assessing—

17 (1) the implementation of the amendments
18 made by this Act;

19 (2) any challenges related to integrating the
20 territories of the United States into the AMBER
21 Alert system;

22 (3) the readiness, educational, technological,
23 and training needs of territorial law enforcement
24 agencies in responding to cases involving missing,
25 abducted, or exploited children; and

1 (4) any other related matters the Attorney Gen-
2 eral or the Secretary of Transportation determines
3 appropriate.

4 (b) REPORT REQUIRED.—The Comptroller General
5 shall submit a report on the findings of the study required
6 under subsection (a) to—

7 (1) the Committee on the Judiciary and the
8 Committee on Environment and Public Works of the
9 Senate;

10 (2) the Committee on the Judiciary and the
11 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of
12 the House of Representatives; and

13 (3) each of the delegates or resident commis-
14 sioner to the House of Representatives from Amer-
15 ican Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands,
16 Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands of the United
17 States.

18 (c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Comptroller Gen-
19 eral shall make the report required under subsection (b)
20 available on a public Government website.

21 (d) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General
23 may secure information necessary to conduct the
24 study under subsection (a) directly from any Federal
25 agency and from any territorial government receiv-

1 ing grant funding under the PROTECT Act. Upon
2 request of the Comptroller General, the head of a
3 Federal agency or territorial government shall fur-
4 nish the requested information to the Comptroller
5 General.

6 (2) AGENCY RECORDS.—Notwithstanding para-
7 graph (1), nothing in this subsection shall require a
8 Federal agency or any territorial government to
9 produce records subject to a common law evidentiary
10 privilege. Records and information shared with the
11 Comptroller General shall continue to be subject to
12 withholding under sections 552 and 552a of title 5,
13 United States Code. The Comptroller General is ob-
14 ligated to give the information the same level of con-
15 fidentiality and protection required of the Federal
16 agency or territorial government. The Comptroller
17 General may be requested to sign a nondisclosure or
18 other agreement as a condition of gaining access to
19 sensitive or proprietary data to which the Comp-
20 troller General is entitled.

21 (3) PRIVACY OF PERSONAL INFORMATION.—
22 The Comptroller General, and any Federal agency
23 and any territorial government that provides infor-
24 mation to the Comptroller General, shall take such

- 1 actions as are necessary to ensure the protection of
- 2 the personal information of a minor.

