

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION**H. R. _____**

To amend title 49, United States Code, to require each new motor vehicle to be equipped with a manual door release allowing timely exit regardless of failure of any electrical system, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. KELLY of Illinois introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, to require each new motor vehicle to be equipped with a manual door release allowing timely exit regardless of failure of any electrical system, 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 “Securing Accessible
5 Functional Emergency Exit Act” or the “SAFE Exit
6 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. VEHICLE STANDARD FOR MANUAL DOOR RELEASE.**

2 (a) MANUAL DOOR RELEASE.—Subchapter II of
3 chapter 301 of title 49, United States Code, is amended
4 by adding at the end the following new section:

5 **“§ 30130. Manual door release**

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the
7 date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of
8 Transportation shall issue a final rule amending Standard
9 206 to establish performance and labeling requirements
10 for motor vehicles equipped with an electronic door latch
11 system, including manufacture requirements for—

12 “(1) a power independent, easy-to-find manual
13 release for each door providing occupant egress,
14 which shall be intuitive to use and readily accessible
15 for the occupant; and

16 “(2) means for emergency responder access to
17 the occupant compartment when vehicle electrical
18 power is lost.

19 “(b) COMPLIANCE DATE.—The compliance date of
20 the revised rule issued under subsection (a) shall be not
21 later than 2 years after the date on which that rule is
22 issued.

23 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

24 “(1) ELECTRONIC DOOR LATCH.—The term
25 ‘electronic door latch’ means a door-locking or door-

1 latching mechanism that relies on electrical power to
2 release or secure a vehicle door.

3 “(2) MANUAL RELEASE.—The term ‘manual re-
4 lease’ means a mechanical device intended for occu-
5 pant egress that directly disengages the door latch
6 without electrical power.

7 “(3) STANDARD 206.—The term ‘Standard
8 206’ means Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard
9 Number 206, contained in section 571.206 of title
10 49, Code of Federal Regulations.”.

11 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
12 for subchapter II of chapter 301 of title 49, United States
13 Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“Sec. 30130. Manual door release.”.