

The Stop Crypto ATM Scams Act

Reps. Sean Casten (D-IL) and Maria Elvira Salazar (R-FL)

Background: Crypto ATMs allow users to convert cash into digital assets, which are then transferred to a customer's digital wallet. Transactions are fast, final, and anonymous, making these machines a popular tool for foreign actors to carry out hundreds of millions in irreversible fraud. Scammers often target seniors, pose as a legitimate source, convince victims that urgent payment is needed, and direct them to a crypto ATM to deposit cash and forward digital assets to the scammer's wallet. Once the funds are sent, the money is gone. According to the FBI, Americans [lost](#) more than \$333 million to crypto ATM scams in 2025, a 33% increase from 2024. Seniors [accounted](#) for 86% of all losses due to crypto ATM scams in 2024. Stolen funds often end up in foreign countries less likely to cooperate with U.S. investigations, making it very difficult to recover.

Applies Anti-Money Laundering (AML) Requirements to Crypto ATM Operators: This bill requires that operators implement a written AML program, conduct strict customer due diligence, report fraudulent activity to U.S. regulators, and regularly update a list of all kiosk locations. In 2019, the Treasury Department issued guidance clarifying that crypto ATM operators must register and adhere to the same AML rules that apply to banks. However, there are high rates of non-compliance: [According](#) to a 2021 investigation, more than one-third of crypto ATM companies operating in New Jersey had failed to register at the federal level.

Imposes Daily Transaction Limits for Customers: This bill imposes a \$2,000 daily transaction limit for new customers, which applies over a 14-day period following their first transaction. In addition, over the 14-day period, new customers cannot deposit more than \$10,000 in total. This bill also imposes a \$7,500 daily limit for existing customers. There are countless stories of victims losing their entire life savings to crypto ATM scams. For example, one woman in Ohio met a new "friend" online and sent them funds to help take care of their "family", [losing](#) more than \$660,000, including funds from her Roth IRA.

Requires Anti-Fraud Measures and Scam Warnings: This bill requires operators to provide scam warnings and red flags to look out for before a customer enters into a transaction, which will be informed by annual fraud alerts issued jointly by the Treasury Department, FBI, and FTC. Crypto ATM scams can take various forms: scammers may impersonate a government official or a representative from a victim's bank or utility company, and convince them urgent payment is needed to avoid financial penalties or legal troubles; or scammers may contact a victim via social media or a dating app, build a connection and trust over time, before requesting money for an "emergency" or hyping up an "investment opportunity", and directing a victim to send funds via a crypto ATM machine.

Ensures Key Customer Protections and Tools for Law Enforcement: The bill requires that detailed disclosures are provided before a customer enters into a transaction, which shall be informed by guidance issued jointly by the Treasury Department, CFPB, and FTC. It also requires written or electronic transaction receipts with specific information that helps with law enforcement investigations. Crypto ATM operators will also be required to provide live customer service and a dedicated phone number for law enforcement inquiries.

Addresses High Charges to Customers: This bill requires that operators clearly disclose charges collected from the customer, including by providing a reference to the current market price of the cryptocurrency as is trading on a regulated exchange. It also requires that operators refund the charges collected on fraudulent transactions in a timely manner. Crypto ATM operators have been found to mark up the price of cryptocurrency. For example, one operator [reportedly](#) sold Bitcoin to a customer at a rate that was 24% higher than the price at which Bitcoin was actually trading.

Balances State and Federal Regulation: The bill establishes a federal standard for future state and local limits on transaction volumes, while preserving states' authority to impose any additional requirements necessary to protect consumers, including but not limited to requiring full refunds for defrauded customers, imposing limits on charges, or outright [banning](#) operations within their borders.