

H.R. 4

ENHANCING AVIATION SAFETY: Ensuring the world's safest aviation system stays that way

The role of the federal government is to provide robust safety oversight of all aspects of the aviation system. The FAA Reauthorization Act will ensure that the United States continues to have the safest aviation system in the world, and includes a number of safety provisions to protect the traveling public. The bill also contains provisions to address recent and emerging safety concerns.

The FAA Reauthorization Act:

- Ensures the FAA safety workforce is utilized efficiently.
- Enhances FAA safety workforce training.
- Strengthens voluntary safety reporting programs for pilots – the Aviation Safety Action Program (ASAP).
 - » Requires automatic acceptance of ASAP reports into the program until a special committee can meet and review the reports.
 - » Voluntary safety reporting programs are important collaborative safety tools, but currently, weeks may pass between special committee meetings to review ASAP reports, and therefore the implementation of critical safety enhancements may be needlessly delayed.
- Addresses alternative methods of tracking aircraft over oceans.
 - » Directs the FAA to work with ICAO and other countries on developing standards to improve the tracking of aircraft.
 - » Requires the FAA to initiate a study of aircraft data access and retrieval technologies to determine if the technologies provide improved access and retrieval of aircraft data and cockpit voice recordings in the event of an aircraft accident.
- Directs the FAA to review and update its comprehensive plan to address cybersecurity vulnerabilities.
- Includes a robust and thoughtful approach to address the transportation of lithium batteries by air.
 - » Establishes a Lithium Ion Battery Safety Advisory Committee to foster collaboration between DOT and relevant federal and international agencies to address the packaging, shipping, and development of safety standards for the air transportation of lithium batteries.
 - » Directs the Secretary to issue regulations consistent with international technical instructions banning lithium ion batteries as cargo on passenger aircraft.
 - » Allows DOT to make exceptions for medical device batteries needed in remote areas.
- Establishes a rulemaking committee to review and provide recommendations on pilot rest and duty rules for pilots in part 135 operations.
- Extends training requirements for recognizing signs of human trafficking to frontline airline personnel.

