

H.R. 4

**SAFELY AND EFFICIENTLY INTEGRATING UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS: *Maintaining America's Edge in Innovation***

The United States has long been the global leader in aviation, and the recent development and growth of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), or drones, represents a tremendous economic opportunity.

According to the FAA, \$89 billion will be invested globally in UAS over the next 10 years, and major U.S. companies are leading the innovation in UAS technology. There are many valuable potential UAS applications in real estate, agriculture, infrastructure maintenance, and other areas, with many more on the horizon. But like other new technologies, UAS offer not only new opportunities, but challenges as well. The first and foremost challenge is ensuring their safe integration into the National Airspace System (NAS).

The FAA Reauthorization Act provides additional tools and flexibility for the FAA to safely and responsibly integrate UAS into the aviation system, respond more quickly to technology developments, and foster innovation in this growing and rapidly evolving industry.

**The FAA Reauthorization Act:**

- Establishes processes to accelerate implementation of low-altitude unmanned aircraft system traffic management (UTM) system.
- Expedites safe deployment of commercial UAS by creating a risk-based permitting process.
- Fosters development of sense-and-avoid technology at UAS test ranges.
- Establishes a streamlined process for the FAA to permit the operation of small UAS for certain uses.
- Requires a DOT study on the privacy implications of UAS operations.
- Directs the DOT Inspector General to assess the FAA's small UAS registration system and requires FAA to develop and track metrics to assess compliance with and effectiveness of the system.
- Directs the DOT Inspector General to study the potential roles of state and local governments.
- Requires the Comptroller General to study financing options related to regulation and oversight of UAS.
- Increases transparency by requiring FAA to publish information on approved small drone waivers and airspace authorizations, and to provide real time data on application status.

