

# FAA EXTENSION

SAFETY • SECURITY • STABILITY

This bipartisan, bicameral measure provides over a year of stability for the U.S. aviation system and provides important aviation safety, security, and time-sensitive improvements for air travelers while Congress continues to develop a long-term reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Aviation remains a target of terrorism around the world, and this legislation strengthens the security of America's aviation system.

## FAA EXTENSION

---

- The measure extends the authorization of the FAA's programs and the taxes that will fund those programs through September 30, 2017 at current funding levels.
- The current authorization of the FAA and associated taxes expires on July 15, 2016.

## AVIATION SAFETY PROVISIONS

---

- Streamlines processes for approval and interagency cooperation to deploy unmanned aircraft during emergencies, such as disaster responses and wildfires.
- Prohibits unmanned aircraft users from interfering with emergency response activities, including wildfire suppression, and raises civil penalties to not more than \$20,000 for those found in violation.
- Creates new processes to detect, identify, and mitigate unauthorized operation of unmanned aircraft around airports and critical infrastructure.
- Expedites the completion of the pilot records database required in the Airline Safety and FAA Extension Act of 2010 in response to the 2009 Colgan Air Flight 3407 accident.
- Requires the marking of certain towers to improve their visibility to low-flying aircraft and help prevent accidents.
- Requires the FAA to evaluate and update standards for crash-resistant helicopter fuel systems in response to fatal accidents where the victims perished in post-crash fires.
- Streamlines and improves the air traffic controller hiring process and ensures the FAA can better address chronic controller shortages with experienced candidates.
- Directs the FAA to establish a comprehensive and strategic framework to identify and address cybersecurity risks to the aviation system.



- Strengthens mental health screening for pilots, addressing a factor in the 2015 Germanwings Flight 9525 crash.
- Ensures that pilots are sufficiently trained on manual flying skills and how to monitor cockpit automation systems, addressing a factor in the 2013 Asiana Flight 214 accident in San Francisco.
- Requires training for flight attendants in recognizing and responding to potential victims of human trafficking.
- Requires the FAA to provide quarterly updates to Congress regarding the number of incidents involving laser pointers being aimed at aircraft, and the number of civil or criminal enforcement actions taken by federal authorities with regard to these incidents.

## AVIATION SECURITY PROVISIONS

---

- Strengthens security for foreign airports by requiring comprehensive security assessments for all overseas airports serving the United States and considers the level of information sharing and security capabilities of foreign airports.
- Authorizes capacity development, training, screening equipment donation, and cargo program certification for overseas airports to bolster the security standards for flights headed to the United States from high risk airports.
- Expands the TSA PreCheck program by directing TSA to partner with the private sector to develop enhanced enrollment and vetting methods. By developing and marketing this program, TSA can strengthen security by identifying trusted travelers, while also increasing operational efficiency of checkpoints by providing expedited screening to more passengers.
- Optimizes checkpoints by redeploying certain TSA personnel and assessing TSA's staffing allocation model, in order to reduce passenger wait times while enhancing security effectiveness.
- Tightens the access controls and employee vetting standards for aviation workers with access to secure and sterile areas of airports, in order to mitigate the insider threat to aviation security.
- Authorizes "Checkpoint of the Future" innovation efforts underway at TSA, authorizes additional TSA Visible Intermodal Prevention and Response teams, and ensures these teams are trained to assist transportation hubs in preparing for and responding to active shooter scenarios.

## ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

---

- Reforms and streamlines the third-class medical certification process.
- Requires air carriers to provide a refund of paid baggage fees when items are lost or unreasonably delayed.
- Requires airlines to generally ensure that children 13 years of age or under are seated adjacent to an adult or older child traveling with them.
- Takes steps to improve air travel for persons with disabilities by requiring a review of training and best practices by airports and airlines, and by requiring DOT to issue a rule to address several issues of concern to the disabled community.
- Extends authority for the DOT's Advisory Committee for Aviation Consumer Protection.

