

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3085

To amend title 49, United States Code, to establish a program to provide assistance to underserved airports to improve passenger and flight capacity, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 29, 2025

Mr. VASQUEZ (for himself and Mr. MANN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, to establish a program to provide assistance to underserved airports to improve passenger and flight capacity, 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 “Expanding Regional
5 Airports Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REGIONAL AIRPORT EXPANSION PROGRAM.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 417 of title 49, United
3 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
4 lowing:

5 “SUBCHAPTER IV—REGIONAL AIRPORT
6 EXPANSION PROGRAM

7 “§ 41781. Grants for growing regional airports

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation
9 shall establish a program to provide grants to eligible air-
10 ports to improve passenger and flight capacity.

11 “(b) ELIGIBLE USES.—An eligible airport may use
12 a grant provided under this section for—

13 “(1) activities that improve passenger and flight
14 capacity at such airport, including—

15 “(A) the expansion of passenger and prop-
16 erty screening facilities;

17 “(B) runway lengthening;

18 “(C) construction of hangars and associ-
19 ated infrastructure; and

20 “(D) improving passenger facilities; and

21 “(2) costs incurred to comply with operational
22 and security requirements under part 139 or part
23 154 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, or part
24 1542 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations.

25 “(c) GRANT REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the
26 program established under this section, the Secretary shall

1 provide not less than 3 and not more than 10 grants to
 2 eligible airports in each fiscal year.

3 “(d) ELIGIBLE AIRPORT DEFINED.—In this section,
 4 the term ‘eligible airport’ means an airport that—

5 “(1) is a general aviation airport or a nonpri-
 6 mary commercial service airport (as determined by
 7 the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Adminis-
 8 tration); and

9 “(2) serves a community with a population of
 10 at least 75,000.

11 **“§ 41782. Authorization of appropriations**

12 “There is authorized to be appropriated for each fis-
 13 cal year \$50,000,000 to carry out section 41781.”.

14 (b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for
 15 chapter 417 of title 49, United States Code, is amended
 16 by inserting after the item relating to section 41767 the
 17 following:

“SUBCHAPTER IV—REGIONAL AIRPORT EXPANSION PROGRAM

“41781. Grants for growing regional airports.

“41782. Authorization of appropriations.”.

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