

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 8597

To require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to acquire and install certified airborne position reference tools at air traffic control towers, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 30, 2026

Mr. BEGICH (for himself, Ms. GILLEN, and Ms. KING-HINDS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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## A BILL

To require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to acquire and install certified airborne position reference tools at air traffic control towers, 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 “Air Traffic Situational  
5        Awareness Enhancement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS TO AIR TRAFFIC SITUATIONAL**  
2 **AWARENESS.**

3 (a) AIRBORNE POSITION REFERENCE TOOL INSTAL-  
4 LATION.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enact-  
5 ment of this section, the Administrator of the Federal  
6 Aviation Administration shall acquire and install certified  
7 Airborne Position Reference Tools at air traffic control  
8 towers of the Federal Aviation Administration that are—

9 (1) operating under contract with the Federal  
10 Aviation Administration pursuant to section 47124  
11 of title 49, United States Code; and

12 (2) not equipped with Standard Terminal Auto-  
13 mation Replacement Systems or other situational  
14 awareness tools.

15 (b) STANDARD TERMINAL AUTOMATION REPLACE-  
16 MENT SYSTEM INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE.—Sec-  
17 tion 47124(f)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amend-  
18 ed to read as follows:

19 “(2) INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE.—For  
20 any tower operated under the Contract Tower Pro-  
21 gram that is not equipped with Standard Terminal  
22 Automation Replacement Systems or other situa-  
23 tional awareness tools as of the date of enactment  
24 of the Air Traffic Situational Awareness Enhance-  
25 ment Act, not later than 1 year after such date, the  
26 Secretary shall purchase a Standard Terminal Auto-

1       mation Replacement System, or any equivalent sys-  
2       tem, and install and maintain such system using  
3       services directly from an original equipment manu-  
4       facturer or services of the Federal Aviation Adminis-  
5       tration.”.

6       (c) STANDARD TERMINAL AUTOMATION REPLACE-  
7       MENT SYSTEM FUNDING.—Section 47124(f)(3) of title  
8       49, United States Code, is amended—

9               (1) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “and”  
10              after the semicolon; and

11             (2) by striking subparagraphs (C) through (E)  
12              and inserting the following:

13                       “(C) shall establish, in consultation with  
14                       contract tower operators, an appropriate train-  
15                       ing program to periodically train air traffic con-  
16                       trollers employed by such operators to ensure  
17                       proper and efficient integration and use of the  
18                       situational awareness equipment and technology  
19                       described in paragraph (1) into contract tower  
20                       operations.”.

21       (d) RETROACTIVITY.—Notwithstanding any other  
22       provision of law, the Secretary of Transportation shall  
23       provide to any airport sponsor or air traffic control tower  
24       described in subsection (a)—

1           (1) reimbursement for any certified situational  
2 awareness system (including Airborne Position Ref-  
3 erence Tools in accordance with subsection (a)) that  
4 was independently acquired and installed prior to  
5 the date on which the Administrator installs any  
6 such system under subsection (a); or

7           (2) reimbursement or retroactive grant funding  
8 in accordance with section 47124(b) of title 49,  
9 United States Code, for any certified situational  
10 awareness system (including a Standard Terminal  
11 Automation Replacement System) that was inde-  
12 pendently acquired and installed prior to the effec-  
13 tive date of the amendments made by subsection (b).

14           (e) AUTHORIZED EXPENDITURES FOR AIR NAVIGA-  
15 TION FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT.—Section 48101(c) of  
16 title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the  
17 end the following new paragraph:

18           “(10) The acquisition, installation, and annual  
19 operating expenses of certified Airborne Position  
20 Reference Tools at air traffic control towers that are  
21 operating under contract with the Federal Aviation  
22 Administration under section 47124 and are not  
23 equipped with Standard Terminal Automation Re-

- 1 placement Systems or other situational awareness
- 2 tools.”.

