

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1985

To improve aviation safety, and for other purposes.

---

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 5, 2025

Ms. CANTWELL (for herself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. WARNOCK) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

---

## A BILL

To improve aviation safety, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “Safe Operations of Shared Airspace Act of 2025”.

6 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for  
7 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Definitions.
- Sec. 3. Expert compliance review of FAA Safety Management System.
- Sec. 4. ADS-B Out Reforms.
- Sec. 5. ADS-B In requirement to enhance safety.
- Sec. 6. Safety reviews of airspace.
- Sec. 7. FAA-Department of Defense Safety Information Sharing.
- Sec. 8. No disruptions to FAA workforce.

- Sec. 9. Extension of FAA air traffic controller max hiring requirement.  
Sec. 10. Air traffic controller training improvements.  
Sec. 11. TARAM analyses.  
Sec. 12. Employee reporting.  
Sec. 13. Conflicts of interest.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-  
4 trator” means the Administrator of the FAA.

5 (2) ADS-B IN.—The term “ADS-B In” means  
6 onboard avionics technology that periodically receives  
7 ADS-B Out broadcasts of an aircraft’s state vector  
8 (3-dimensional position and 3-dimensional velocity)  
9 and other required information as described in part  
10 91.277 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or  
11 a successor regulation).

12 (3) ADS-B OUT.—The term “ADS-B Out”  
13 has the meaning given such term in section 91.227  
14 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or a suc-  
15 cessor regulation).

16 (4) AIR CARRIER; FOREIGN AIR CARRIER.—The  
17 terms “air carrier” and “foreign air carrier” have  
18 the meanings given such terms in section 40102 of  
19 title 49, United States Code.

20 (5) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-  
21 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-  
22 gress” means the Committee on Commerce, Science,  
23 and Transportation of the Senate and the Com-

1        mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the  
2        House of Representatives.

3            (6) CABINET MEMBER.—The term “Cabinet  
4        Member” means an individual who is the head (in-  
5        cluding an acting head) of the Department of Agri-  
6        culture, Department of Commerce, Department of  
7        Defense, Department of Education, Department of  
8        Energy, Department of Health and Human Services,  
9        Department of Homeland Security, Department of  
10       Housing and Urban Development, Department of  
11       the Interior, Department of Justice, Department of  
12       Labor, Department of State, Department of Trans-  
13       portation, Department of the Treasury, or Depart-  
14       ment of Veterans Affairs, or any other individual  
15       who occupies a position designated by the President  
16       as a Cabinet-level position.

17            (7) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—The term  
18        “Comptroller General” means the Comptroller Gen-  
19        eral of the United States.

20            (8) FAA.—The term “FAA” means the Fed-  
21        eral Aviation Administration.

22            (9) POWERED-LIFT.—The term “powered-lift”  
23        has the meaning given such term in section 1.1 of  
24        title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor  
25        regulation).

1           (10) ROTORCRAFT.—The term “rotorcraft” has  
2 the meaning given such term in section 1.1 of title  
3 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor reg-  
4 ulation).

5           (11) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary”  
6 means the Secretary of Transportation.

7           (12) SMS.—The term “SMS” means a safety  
8 management system.

9           (13) TRANSPORT AIRPLANE.—The term “trans-  
10 port airplane” means a transport category airplane  
11 designed for operation by an air carrier or foreign  
12 air carrier type-certificated with a passenger seating  
13 capacity of 30 or more or an all-cargo or combi de-  
14 rivative.

15           (14) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.—The term  
16 “‘unmanned aircraft system’” has the meaning  
17 given such term in section 44801 of title 49, United  
18 States Code.

19 **SEC. 3. EXPERT COMPLIANCE REVIEW OF FAA SAFETY**  
20 **MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.**

21 (a) EXPERT COMPLIANCE REVIEW.—

22 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

23 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days  
24 after the date of enactment of this section, the  
25 Administrator shall convene an independent ex-

1           pert panel (in this section referred to as the  
2           “review panel”) to review and make findings  
3           and recommendations on the matters listed in  
4           paragraph (2).

5           (B) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the review  
6           panel is to review and evaluate FAA orders and  
7           policies to inform the FAA’s implementation of  
8           a comprehensive and integrated SMS for all  
9           lines of business within the FAA.

10          (2) CONTENTS OF REVIEW.—The review panel  
11          shall review the following:

12                (A) The extent to which the FAA’s SMS  
13                complies with relevant FAA orders and policies.

14                (B) The actual and projected safety en-  
15                hancements achieved through the FAA’s prior  
16                implementation of SMS.

17                (C) The effectiveness of SMS, including  
18                with respect to the implementation of the fol-  
19                lowing 4 components:

20                      (i) Safety policy.

21                      (ii) Safety risk management.

22                      (iii) Safety assurance.

23                      (iv) Safety promotion.

24                (D) The extent to which SMS and each of  
25                the 4 components described in subparagraph

1 (C) are integrated among and across all lines of  
2 business of the FAA.

3 (E) The extent to which SMS and each of  
4 the 4 components so described are understood,  
5 communicated, and trained to personnel at the  
6 FAA.

7 (F) The efficacy of the FAA's Voluntary  
8 Safety Reporting Programs as part of SMS, in-  
9 cluding any actions taken by the FAA in re-  
10 sponse to reports filed under such program.

11 (G) Whether the Federal Government  
12 should advocate for changes to Annex 19–Safe-  
13 ty Management of the International Civil Avia-  
14 tion Organization (in this section referred to as  
15 “ICAO”) to ensure appropriate updates to the  
16 State Safety Program standards and rec-  
17 ommended practices, including—

18 (i) a systems-level approach to evalu-  
19 ating and improving SMS for air naviga-  
20 tion service providers; and

21 (ii) the implementation of SMS for  
22 civil aviation regulators.

23 (H) Any other matter determined by the  
24 Administrator for which review by the review

1 panel would be consistent with the public inter-  
2 est in aviation safety.

3 (3) COMPOSITION OF REVIEW PANEL.—

4 (A) APPOINTED MEMBERS.—The review  
5 panel shall consist of the following members ap-  
6 pointed by the Administrator:

7 (i) Two representatives of the Na-  
8 tional Aeronautics and Space Administra-  
9 tion with expertise in SMSs.

10 (ii) Three appropriately qualified rep-  
11 resentatives of aviation labor organizations  
12 (designated by the applicable represented  
13 organization), including—

14 (I) the principal organization  
15 representing the largest certified col-  
16 lective bargaining representative of  
17 airline pilots; and

18 (II) the exclusive bargaining rep-  
19 resentatives of FAA air traffic con-  
20 trollers certified under section 7111 of  
21 title 5, United States Code.

22 (iii) Not less than 5 independent sub-  
23 ject matter experts in safety management  
24 systems who—

1 (I) have not served as a political  
2 appointee in the FAA; and

3 (II) have a minimum of 10 years  
4 of relevant applied experience.

5 (iv) Three representatives from the  
6 aviation industry with expertise in SMS.

7 (v) A representative of the United  
8 States Mission to the ICAO.

9 (B) ADVISORY MEMBERS.—

10 (i) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the  
11 appointed members described in subpara-  
12 graph (A), the review panel shall be ad-  
13 vised by up to 5 employees of the FAA, at  
14 least 3 of whom shall be subject matter ex-  
15 perts in implementing SMS at the FAA.

16 (ii) DUTIES.—The advisory members  
17 may take part in deliberations of the re-  
18 view panel and provide subject matter ex-  
19 pertise with respect to the review panel's  
20 work.

21 (4) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The review panel  
22 shall issue recommendations to the Administrator  
23 based on the review of the matters listed in para-  
24 graph (2) in order to inform the FAA's implementa-

1       tion of a comprehensive and integrated SMS for all  
2       lines of business within the FAA.

3           (5) REPORT.—

4           (A) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 180  
5       days after the date of the first meeting of the  
6       review panel, the review panel shall submit to  
7       the Administrator and the appropriate commit-  
8       tees of Congress a report containing the find-  
9       ings and recommendations regarding the mat-  
10      ters listed in paragraph (2) that are endorsed  
11      by a majority of the review panel.

12          (B) DISSENTING VIEWS.—In submitting  
13      the report under subparagraph (A), the review  
14      panel shall append to such report the dissenting  
15      views of any individual member or group of  
16      members of the review panel regarding the find-  
17      ings or recommendations of the review panel.

18          (C) PUBLICATION.—Not later than 5 days  
19      after receiving the report under subparagraph  
20      (A), the Administrator shall publish such re-  
21      port, including any dissenting views appended  
22      to the report, on the website of the FAA.

23          (D) TERMINATION.—The review panel  
24      shall terminate upon the submission of the re-  
25      port under subparagraph (A).

1 (6) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—

2 (A) ACCESS TO INFORMATION.—

3 (i) IN GENERAL.—The review panel  
4 shall have the authority to perform the fol-  
5 lowing actions if a majority of the review  
6 panel members consider each action nec-  
7 essary and appropriate:

8 (I) Entering onto the premises of  
9 the FAA for access to and inspection  
10 of records or other purposes.

11 (II) Notwithstanding any other  
12 provision of law, except as provided in  
13 clause (ii), accessing and inspecting  
14 de-identified, but otherwise  
15 unredacted, records directly necessary  
16 for the completion of the review pan-  
17 el's work under this section that are  
18 in the possession of the FAA.

19 (III) Interviewing employees of  
20 the FAA as necessary for the review  
21 panel to complete its work.

22 (ii) NON-FEDERAL GOVERNMENT  
23 MEMBERS.—Members of the review panel  
24 who are not officers or employees of the  
25 Federal Government shall only have access

1 to, and be allowed to inspect, information  
2 provided to the FAA pursuant to section  
3 40123 of title 49, United States Code, and  
4 part 193 of title 14, Code of Federal Regu-  
5 lations, in a de-identified form.

6 (B) NONDISCLOSURE OF CONFIDENTIAL  
7 INFORMATION.—

8 (i) NONDISCLOSURE FOR NON-FED-  
9 ERAL GOVERNMENT MEMBERS.—

10 (I) NON-FEDERAL GOVERNMENT  
11 PARTICIPANTS.—Prior to partici-  
12 pating on the review panel, each indi-  
13 vidual serving on the review panel rep-  
14 resenting a non-Federal entity shall  
15 execute an agreement with the Admin-  
16 istrator in which the individual shall  
17 be prohibited from disclosing at any  
18 time, except as required by law, to  
19 any person, foreign or domestic, any  
20 non-public information made available  
21 to the panel under subparagraph (A).

22 (II) FEDERAL GOVERNMENT  
23 PARTICIPANTS.—Federal officers or  
24 employees serving on the review panel  
25 as representatives of the Federal Gov-

1           ernment and subject to the require-  
2           ment to protect confidential informa-  
3           tion (including proprietary informa-  
4           tion and trade secrets under section  
5           1905 of title 18, United States Code)  
6           shall not be required to execute agree-  
7           ments under this clause.

8           (ii) PROTECTION OF INFORMATION.—  
9           Information that is obtained or reviewed  
10          by the review panel shall not constitute a  
11          waiver of the protections applicable to the  
12          information under section 552 of title 5,  
13          United States Code (commonly referred to  
14          as the “Freedom of Information Act”).  
15          Members of the review panel shall protect  
16          such information to the extent required  
17          under applicable law.

18          (iii) PROTECTION OF PROPRIETARY  
19          INFORMATION AND TRADE SECRETS.—  
20          Members of the review panel shall protect  
21          proprietary information, trade secrets, and  
22          other information otherwise exempt under  
23          section 552 of title 5, United States Code,  
24          to the extent permitted under applicable  
25          law.

1           (7) INAPPLICABILITY OF FACA.—The review  
2 panel shall not be subject to chapter 10 of title 5,  
3 United States Code (commonly referred to as the  
4 “Federal Advisory Committee Act”).

5           (8) PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS.—Not later than  
6 1 year after the submission of the recommendations  
7 under paragraph (4), the Administrator shall report  
8 to the appropriate committees of Congress on the  
9 status of any ongoing actions in response to such  
10 recommendations, including the status of implemen-  
11 tation of each of the recommendations of the review  
12 panel, if any, with which the Administrator concurs.

13       (b) NON-CONCURRENCE WITH RECOMMENDA-  
14 TIONS.—Not later than 6 months after submission of the  
15 recommendations under subsection (a)(4), with respect to  
16 each recommendation of the review panel with which the  
17 Administrator does not concur, if any, the Administrator  
18 shall publish on the website of the FAA and submit to  
19 the appropriate committees of Congress a detailed expla-  
20 nation for such determination.

21 **SEC. 4. ADS-B OUT REFORMS.**

22       (a) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN EXCEPTIONS.—For  
23 purposes of applying section 91.225(f) of title 14, Code  
24 of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation), the  
25 term “sensitive government mission” shall be strictly con-

1 strued and shall not include training flights, flights of  
2 Federal officials below the rank of Cabinet Member, or  
3 any routine flights.

4 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1046(e)(3)  
5 of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization  
6 Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (49 U.S.C. 40101 note) is  
7 amended to read as follows:

8 “(3) The term ‘special mission aircraft’ means  
9 an aircraft the Secretary of Defense designates, in  
10 coordination with the Federal Aviation Administra-  
11 tion, for a unique mission to which operating with  
12 ADS–B Out equipment installed and activated cre-  
13 ates a unique risk when weighed against any risk to  
14 the safety of the national airspace system posed by  
15 non-crew and deactivation of ADS–B Out equip-  
16 ment.”.

17 (c) ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION.—The Administrator  
18 shall modify section 91.225(f) of title 14, Code of Federal  
19 Regulations (or any successor regulation), and any perti-  
20 nent Memorandum of Agreement, to conform with the re-  
21 quirements of this section.

22 (d) GAO REVIEW AND REPORT.—Not later than the  
23 date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this  
24 section, the Comptroller General shall—

1           (1) review the utilization of exceptions specified  
2           in section 91.225(f) of title 14, Code of Federal  
3           Regulations (or any successor regulation), as modi-  
4           fied to conform with the requirements of this sec-  
5           tion, and section 1046(e)(3) of the John S. McCain  
6           National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year  
7           2019 (49 U.S.C. 40101 note), as amended by sub-  
8           section (b), to determine whether the Department of  
9           Defense and other relevant Federal agencies, or  
10          other applicable operators, have utilized those excep-  
11          tions in accordance with relevant law and regulation  
12          and the extent of such utilization; and

13           (2) submit to the appropriate committees of  
14          Congress a report on the findings of the review con-  
15          ducted under paragraph (1).

16          (e) FAA REVIEW.—Upon submission of the report  
17          specified in subsection (d)(2), the Administrator shall de-  
18          termine whether any Federal agencies that have been  
19          found to have not utilized exceptions in accordance with  
20          relevant laws and regulations shall be permitted to con-  
21          tinue to utilize those exceptions. The Administrator shall  
22          brief the appropriate committees of Congress on such de-  
23          termination.

24          (f) JOINT COUNCIL.—The Administrator, through  
25          the Office of FAA–DOD Coordination established or des-

1 ignated under section 6, and the Secretary of Defense,  
2 shall establish a joint council to regularly review all oper-  
3 ations, including those operated by Federal agencies, that  
4 utilize the exceptions to the ADS-B Out equipage and  
5 transmission requirements to ensure compliance with rel-  
6 evant laws and regulations. The joint council shall brief  
7 the appropriate committees of Congress on an annual  
8 basis.

9 **SEC. 5. ADS-B IN REQUIREMENT TO ENHANCE SAFETY.**

10 (a) **DEADLINE FOR COMPLIANCE.**—Not later than  
11 the date that is 4 years after the date of enactment of  
12 this section, an air carrier operating under part 121 of  
13 title 14, Code of Federal Regulations or providing service  
14 under part 135 of title 14 of such Code pursuant to a  
15 schedule or in conjunction with part 380 of title 14 of  
16 such Code may not operate an aircraft unless the aircraft  
17 has Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast In  
18 (ADS-B In) equipment installed and operational at all  
19 times unless otherwise authorized by air traffic control,  
20 regardless of whether the Administrator has issued regula-  
21 tions to implement such requirement.

22 (b) **PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS.**—The Adminis-  
23 trator shall determine appropriate performance require-  
24 ments for the ADS-B In equipment referenced in sub-  
25 section (a) for the purposes of providing safety-enhancing

1 capabilities for flight crews, including but not limited to  
2 increasing situational awareness, receiving indications and  
3 alerts of air traffic conflicts, and facilitating aircraft colli-  
4 sion avoidance. The Administrator shall issue relevant  
5 guidance to operators and other appropriate stakeholders  
6 on the types of equipment that satisfy the requirements  
7 of this section.

8 **SEC. 6. SAFETY REVIEWS OF AIRSPACE.**

9 (a) **FAA–DOD COORDINATION** .—Not later than 30  
10 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Ad-  
11 ministrator shall establish or designate an office within the  
12 FAA as the Office of FAA–DOD Coordination (in this  
13 section referred to as the “Office”), which shall—

14 (1) coordinate airspace usage of military air-  
15 craft and rotorcraft with relevant FAA lines of busi-  
16 ness including the Air Traffic Organization; and

17 (2) carry out the safety review required by sub-  
18 section (b).

19 (b) **SAFETY REVIEWS**.—

20 (1) **REVIEW OF RONALD REAGAN WASHINGTON**  
21 **NATIONAL AIRPORT**.—Not later than 30 days after  
22 the date on which the Office is established or des-  
23 ignated, the Administrator, in coordination with the  
24 Secretary of Defense and the heads of any other  
25 Federal agencies determined appropriate by the Ad-

1 administrator, shall initiate a safety review (in this  
2 subsection referred to as the “review”) of all mili-  
3 tary, law enforcement, and civilian rotary wing, pow-  
4 ered lift, and unmanned aircraft system flight oper-  
5 ations and flight routes in the Washington DC Met-  
6 ropolitan Area Special Flight Rules Area, including  
7 but not limited to flight operations conducted by the  
8 Department of Defense and emergency response pro-  
9 viders, to evaluate any associated safety risk on com-  
10 mercial transport airplane operations at Ronald  
11 Reagan Washington National Airport.

12 (2) OTHER AIRPORT REVIEWS.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in  
14 coordination with the Secretary of Defense and  
15 the heads of any Federal agencies determined  
16 appropriate by the Administrator, shall conduct  
17 safety reviews of all military, law enforcement  
18 and civilian rotary wing, powered lift, and un-  
19 manned aircraft system flight operations and  
20 flight routes at other Class B airports (as listed  
21 in section 1 of Appendix D to part 91 of title  
22 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any suc-  
23 cessor regulation)) in Class B airspace in the  
24 national airspace system, including flight oper-  
25 ations conducted by the Department of Defense

1 and emergency response providers, to evaluate  
2 any associated safety risk on commercial trans-  
3 port airplane operations.

4 (B) PRIORITIZATION.—

5 (i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90  
6 days after the date of enactment of this  
7 section, for the sole purpose of carrying  
8 out the safety reviews required by subpara-  
9 graph (A), the Administrator shall classify  
10 Class B airports into the following cat-  
11 egories based on the volume of mixed air  
12 traffic at each airport, as determined by  
13 the Administrator:

14 (I) Class B airports with higher  
15 volumes of mixed air traffic.

16 (II) Class B airports with lower  
17 volumes of mixed air traffic.

18 (ii) PRIORITY.—In conducting the  
19 safety reviews required by subparagraph  
20 (A), the Administrator shall prioritize the  
21 evaluation of Class B airports in the cat-  
22 egory under clause (i)(I).

23 (C) DEADLINE OF INITIATION OF RE-  
24 VIEWS.—

1 (i) CLASS B AIRPORTS WITH HIGHER  
2 VOLUMES.—The Administrator shall ini-  
3 tiate the review under subparagraph (A) of  
4 Class B airports in the category under  
5 subparagraph (B)(i)(I) no later than 90  
6 days after the date of enactment of this  
7 section.

8 (ii) CLASS B AIRPORTS WITH LOWER  
9 VOLUMES.—The Administrator shall ini-  
10 tiate the review under subparagraph (A) of  
11 Class B airports in the category under  
12 subparagraph (B)(i)(II) no later than 90  
13 days after the deadline for completion of  
14 the reviews under paragraph (4)(B)(i).

15 (3) REQUIREMENTS.—In conducting the safety  
16 reviews required by paragraphs (1) and (2), the Of-  
17 fice shall do the following:

18 (A) Analyze air traffic and airspace man-  
19 agement.

20 (B) Evaluate the level of coordination the  
21 Administrator exercises with the Secretary of  
22 Defense and the heads of any other Federal  
23 agencies, and emergency response providers as  
24 appropriate, to inform the designation and ap-

1           proval of airspace use and flight routes for non-  
2           transport airplane operations.

3           (C) Assess any risks posed to transport  
4           airplanes from military aircraft, civil rotorcraft,  
5           powered lift aircraft, and unmanned aircraft  
6           systems operating in Class B airspace in prox-  
7           imity to Class B airports.

8           (D) Review relevant incidents submitted to  
9           the Administrator through Air Traffic Manda-  
10          tory Occurrence reports (as documented via  
11          FAA Form 7210–13), Aviation Safety Report-  
12          ing System reports, and Aviation Safety Action  
13          Program reports, and relevant reports sub-  
14          mitted to the Administrator of the National  
15          Aeronautics and Space Administration through  
16          the Aviation Safety Reporting System, to iden-  
17          tify any safety trends regarding the operation  
18          of military aircraft, civil rotorcraft, powered lift  
19          aircraft, and unmanned aircraft systems in  
20          Class B airspace near Class B airports.

21          (E) Select appropriately qualified rep-  
22          resentatives of aviation labor organizations  
23          (designated by the applicable represented orga-  
24          nization) as participants in the reviews, includ-  
25          ing, at a minimum—

1 (i) the principal organization rep-  
2 resenting the largest certified collective  
3 bargaining representative of airline pilots;  
4 and

5 (ii) the exclusive bargaining represent-  
6 ative of air traffic controllers of the FAA  
7 certified under section 7111 of title 5,  
8 United States Code.

9 (4) DEADLINES FOR COMPLETION OF SAFETY  
10 REVIEWS.—

11 (A) RONALD REAGAN WASHINGTON NA-  
12 TIONAL AIRPORT.—The Administrator shall  
13 complete the safety review required by para-  
14 graphs (1) not later than 120 days after the  
15 date on which such review is initiated.

16 (B) OTHER AIRPORTS.—

17 (i) CLASS B AIRPORTS WITH HIGHER  
18 VOLUMES.—The Administrator shall com-  
19 plete the safety reviews required by para-  
20 graphs (2) of Class B airports in the cat-  
21 egory under subparagraph (B)(i)(I) of  
22 such paragraph no later than 2 years after  
23 the date on which the first of such reviews  
24 is initiated.

1 (ii) CLASS B AIRPORTS WITH LOWER  
2 VOLUMES.—The Administrator shall com-  
3 plete the safety review required by para-  
4 graphs (2) of Class B airports in the cat-  
5 egory under subparagraph (B)(i)(II) of  
6 such paragraph no later than 2 years after  
7 the deadline for completion of the reviews  
8 under clause (i).

9 (5) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the  
10 safety reviews required by paragraphs (1) and (2)  
11 are completed, the Administrator shall submit to the  
12 appropriate committees of Congress a report detail-  
13 ing the analysis and results of the review, together  
14 with relevant findings and recommendations, includ-  
15 ing any recommendations for legislative or adminis-  
16 trative action determined appropriate by the Admin-  
17 istrator.

18 **SEC. 7. FAA-DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SAFETY INFORMA-**  
19 **TION SHARING.**

20 (a) MOU WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY.—  
21 Not later than the date that is 60 days after the date of  
22 enactment of this section, the Federal Aviation Adminis-  
23 tration and the Department of the Army shall establish  
24 a Memorandum of Understanding to permit, as appro-  
25 priate, the sharing of information from the Army's Safety

1 Management Information System with the FAA to facili-  
2 tate communications and analysis of any applicable im-  
3 pacts to the safety and efficiency of civil aviation oper-  
4 ations and to mitigate risk in the national airspace system.

5 (b) OTHER DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MOUS.—Not  
6 later than the date that is 90 days after the date of the  
7 enactment of this section, the Federal Aviation Adminis-  
8 tration shall establish a Memorandum of Understanding  
9 with the following military departments to permit, as ap-  
10 propriate, the sharing of information from applicable avia-  
11 tion safety information systems to facilitate communica-  
12 tions and analysis of any applicable impacts to the safety  
13 and efficiency of civil aviation operations and to mitigate  
14 risk in the national airspace system:

15 (1) The Department of the Navy.

16 (2) The Department of the Air Force.

17 (3) The Coast Guard.

18 **SEC. 8. NO DISRUPTIONS TO FAA WORKFORCE.**

19 (a) HIRING FREEZE EXCLUSION.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Any action by the President,  
21 the Secretary, the Administrator, the Director of the  
22 Office of Personnel Management, or other head, offi-  
23 cer, or employee of a Federal executive entity to halt  
24 appointment activities in the Federal service on or

1 after the date of enactment of this section shall ex-  
2 clude the FAA workforce.

3 (2) RETROACTIVE APPLICATION.—Each action  
4 by the President, the Secretary, the Administrator,  
5 the Director of the Office of Personnel Management,  
6 or other head, officer, or employee of a Federal execu-  
7 tive entity to halt appointment activities at the  
8 FAA during the period beginning on January 20,  
9 2025, and ending on the date of enactment of this  
10 section is reversed.

11 (b) DEFERRED RESIGNATION PROGRAM AND VOL-  
12 UNTARY FURLOUGH EXCLUSION.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Any action on or after the  
14 date of enactment of this section by the President,  
15 the Secretary, the Administrator, the Director of the  
16 Office of Personnel Management, or other head, offi-  
17 cer, or employee of a Federal executive entity to  
18 offer a deferred resignation program or voluntary  
19 furlough opportunity to Federal employees shall ex-  
20 clude the FAA workforce.

21 (2) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this sub-  
22 section shall be construed to affect the Voluntary  
23 Separation Incentive Payments program carried out  
24 under part 576 of title 5, Code of Federal Regula-  
25 tions (as in effect on January 1, 2025).

1 (c) GAO REVIEW OF FAA PROBATIONARY PER-  
2 SONNEL TERMINATIONS.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after  
4 the date of enactment of this section, the Comp-  
5 troller General shall initiate a review of each action  
6 by the President, the Secretary, the Administrator,  
7 the Director of the Office of Personnel Management,  
8 and other head, officer, or employee of a Federal ex-  
9 ecutive entity during the period beginning on Feb-  
10 ruary 14, 2025, and ending on the date of enact-  
11 ment of this section to terminate an employee in a  
12 probationary period of employment of the FAA.

13 (2) REQUIREMENTS.—In conducting the review,  
14 the Comptroller General shall evaluate—

15 (A) whether a comprehensive safety risk  
16 management analysis evaluating the impacts of  
17 the proposed workforce reduction on the safety  
18 and efficiency of the national airspace system  
19 was performed by the Secretary or Adminis-  
20 trator prior to the terminations;

21 (B) whether the President, the Secretary,  
22 the Administrator, the Director of the Office of  
23 Personnel Management, or other head, officer,  
24 or employee of a Federal executive entity made  
25 efforts to notify congressional committees of ju-

1 jurisdiction of the proposed and confirmed work-  
2 force reductions; and

3 (C) whether the workforce reductions re-  
4 sulted in a detrimental impact to the safety and  
5 efficiency of the national airspace system.

6 (3) DEADLINE.—The Comptroller General shall  
7 complete the review required by this subsection not  
8 later than 180 days after the date on which the re-  
9 view is initiated.

10 (4) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the  
11 date on which the review is completed, the Comp-  
12 troller General shall submit to the appropriate com-  
13 mittees of Congress a report detailing the results of  
14 the review together with relevant findings and rec-  
15 ommendations, including any recommendations for  
16 legislative or administrative action.

17 (d) PROHIBITION ON FAA STAFFING REDUC-  
18 TIONS.—The Secretary and the Administrator shall not—

19 (1) carry out a reduction in force for employees  
20 of the FAA; or

21 (2) reduce the number of full-time equivalent  
22 positions at the FAA.

1 **SEC. 9. EXTENSION OF FAA AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER**  
2 **MAX HIRING REQUIREMENT.**

3 Section 437(a) of the FAA Reauthorization Act of  
4 2024 (49 U.S.C. 44506 note) is amended by striking  
5 “2028” and inserting “2033”.

6 **SEC. 10. AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER TRAINING IMPROVE-**  
7 **MENTS.**

8 (a) **ENHANCED AIR TRAFFIC COLLEGIATE TRAINING**  
9 **INITIATIVE PROGRAM.—**

10 (1) **IN GENERAL.—**The Administrator shall le-  
11 verage the Collegiate Training Initiative program de-  
12 scribed in section 44506(c) of title 49, United States  
13 Code, to maintain an Enhanced Air Traffic Colle-  
14 giate Training Initiative program (in this section re-  
15 ferred to as the “Enhanced Initiative”) to support  
16 the recruitment, education, and hiring of well-quali-  
17 fied developmental air traffic controllers.

18 (2) **REQUIREMENTS.—**In maintaining the En-  
19 hanced Initiative under paragraph (1), the Adminis-  
20 trator shall, at a minimum, include the following cri-  
21 teria:

22 (A) Selecting and leveraging partnerships  
23 with accredited institutions of higher education  
24 (as defined in section 61.1 of title 14, Code of  
25 Federal Regulations) that administer an accred-

1           ited air traffic curriculum to undergraduate  
2           students.

3           (B) Determining criteria for accredited in-  
4           stitutions of higher education to participate in  
5           the Enhanced Initiative.

6           (C) Soliciting applications from, and pro-  
7           vide guidance to, interested accredited institu-  
8           tions of higher education that administer an ac-  
9           credited air traffic curriculum to undergraduate  
10          students, including accredited institutions that  
11          participate in the Collegiate Training Initiative,  
12          to help increase qualified accredited institutions  
13          participating in the Enhanced Initiative.

14          (3) SELECTION CRITERIA.—Prior to selecting  
15          an accredited institution of higher education for par-  
16          ticipation in the Enhanced Initiative, the Adminis-  
17          trator shall—

18                (A) evaluate the institution’s air traffic  
19                curriculum, including the institution’s—

20                    (i) access to air traffic educational re-  
21                    sources; and

22                    (ii) proximity and access to air traffic  
23                    facilities and equipment;

24                (B) certify that each institution of higher  
25                education seeking to participate in the En-

1           hanced Initiative has a qualified air traffic cur-  
2           riculum that provides, at a minimum, an equiv-  
3           alent level of education and training for air  
4           traffic controller trainees to that provided at  
5           the FAA Academy; and

6                   (C) certify that all evaluations of students  
7           at accredited institutions of higher education  
8           seeking to participate in the Enhanced Initia-  
9           tive shall be conducted by FAA-approved and  
10          certified evaluators.

11           (4) PROGRAM EXPANSION.—The Administrator  
12          shall establish a minimum target of certifying 15  
13          qualified institutions of higher education that meet  
14          the criteria described in this section for selection to  
15          participate in the Enhanced Initiative. The qualified  
16          institutions of higher education selected for such  
17          minimum target shall include any institution of  
18          higher education selected and certified by the Ad-  
19          ministrator for participation in the Enhanced Initia-  
20          tive as of January 20, 2025.

21           (5) HIRING QUALIFIED GRADUATES.—The Ad-  
22          ministrator may appoint qualified individuals who  
23          have successively completed an air traffic curriculum  
24          certified by the Administrator under paragraph (3)  
25          at a participating institution of higher education se-

1 lected by the Administrator and received at least a  
2 well-qualified score on the Air Traffic Skills Assess-  
3 ment, or successor air traffic entrance exam, on a  
4 non-competitive basis for the position of Air Traffic  
5 Control Specialist in the excepted service (as defined  
6 in section 2103 of title 5, United States Code).

7 (6) SUPPORTING THE HIRING OF QUALIFIED  
8 INSTRUCTORS.—Using amounts made available  
9 under section 106(k)(1) of title 49, United States  
10 Code, the Administrator may award funds to sup-  
11 port the recruitment and hiring of qualified faculty  
12 and FAA-approved and certified evaluators at ac-  
13 credited institutions of higher education that admin-  
14 ister an accredited air traffic curriculum to under-  
15 graduate students that either—

16 (A) participate in the Collegiate Training  
17 Initiative and are interested and qualified appli-  
18 cants for participation in the Enhanced Initia-  
19 tive; or

20 (B) have been selected by the Adminis-  
21 trator for participation in the Enhanced Initia-  
22 tive.

23 (7) REVIEW OF ENHANCED AT-CTI PROGRAM.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years  
25 after the date of the enactment of this section,

1 the Comptroller General shall initiate a study to  
2 examine the effectiveness of the Enhanced Ini-  
3 tiative in increasing FAA air traffic controller  
4 education and training capacity and throughput  
5 to grow the FAA air traffic controller work-  
6 force.

7 (B) CONTENTS.—In conducting the study  
8 under subparagraph (A), the Comptroller Gen-  
9 eral shall, at a minimum, evaluate the effective-  
10 ness of the program in producing—

11 (i) students that score at least a well-  
12 qualified score on the Air Traffic Skills As-  
13 sessment or successor air traffic entrance  
14 exam;

15 (ii) developmental controllers that  
16 enter en route and terminal air traffic en-  
17 vironments after completing the Enhanced  
18 Initiative; and

19 (iii) developmental controllers that be-  
20 come Certified Professional Controllers.

21 (C) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the  
22 study required under subparagraph (A), the  
23 Comptroller General shall consult with the FAA  
24 and appropriate stakeholders involved in over-

1           seeing, operating, and administering the En-  
2           hanced Initiative.

3           (D) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after  
4           the date the Comptroller General initiates the  
5           study under subparagraph (A), the Comptroller  
6           General shall submit to the appropriate commit-  
7           tees of Congress and the Administrator a report  
8           describing the results of the study, together  
9           with any appropriate recommendations for leg-  
10          islative or administrative action.

11          (b) IMPROVING AVIATION MEDICAL EXAMINER  
12          STAFFING.—Using amounts made available under section  
13          106(k)(1) of title 49, United States Code, the Adminis-  
14          trator shall exercise all actions necessary to hire qualified  
15          licensed medical physicians with knowledge of or a back-  
16          ground in aerospace medicine, psychiatry, psychology,  
17          neurology, cardiology, or internal medicine in order to—

18                (1) increase the Aviation Medical Examiner (as  
19                described in section 183.21 of title 14, Code of Fed-  
20                eral Regulations) workforce; and

21                (2) achieve maximum staffing capacity within  
22                the FAA Office of Aerospace Medicine.

23          (c) AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL INSTRUCTOR RECRUIT-  
24          MENT PROGRAM.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after  
2 the date of enactment of this section, the Adminis-  
3 trator shall develop and execute an air traffic control  
4 instructor outreach and engagement program to as-  
5 sist with the recruitment, hiring, and retention of air  
6 traffic control instructors at the FAA Academy and  
7 at FAA air traffic control facilities with a dem-  
8 onstrated shortage of air traffic control personnel to  
9 provide classroom instruction or on-the-job training.

10           (2) REQUIREMENTS.—In executing the program  
11 under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall con-  
12 duct outreach and engagement activities relating to  
13 air traffic control instructor career opportunities to  
14 air traffic controllers who are within 1 year of—

15           (A) meeting the age and service require-  
16 ments for an annuity under sections 8336(e)  
17 and 8412(e) of title 5, United States Code; and

18           (B) attaining the mandatory separation  
19 age for air traffic controllers described in sec-  
20 tions 8335(a) and 8425(a) of title 5, United  
21 States Code.

22           (3) CONSIDERATION.—In developing the out-  
23 reach and engagement program, the Administrator  
24 may consider the results of the study conducted in

1 section 416 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024  
2 (Public Law 118–63, 138 Stat. 1161).

3 (4) PUBLICATION.—In executing the program  
4 under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall make  
5 publicly available on the website of the FAA, in a  
6 conspicuous manner, qualification criteria and hiring  
7 materials relating to air traffic control instructor ca-  
8 reers, including active job postings for air traffic  
9 control instructors.

10 **SEC. 11. TARAM ANALYSES.**

11 (a) ASSESSMENT.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall con-  
13 duct a Transport Airplane Risk Assessment Method-  
14 ology (in this section referred to as “TARAM”)  
15 analysis with respect to any transport airplane acci-  
16 dents in the United States that result in a fatality,  
17 regardless of whether an aircraft design or a manu-  
18 facturing issue is believed to have contributed to the  
19 accident.

20 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after  
21 conducting a TARAM analysis in accordance with  
22 paragraph (1), the Administrator shall submit to the  
23 appropriate committees of Congress a report con-  
24 taining the results of the analysis, together with rec-  
25 ommendations for such legislation and administra-

1       tive action as the Administrator determines appro-  
2       priate.

3           (3) EMPLOYEE DESIGNATION.—Not later than  
4       60 days after the date of enactment of this section,  
5       the Administrator shall designate multiple employees  
6       of the FAA as experts for the TARAM analysis  
7       process who shall be responsible for the advocacy,  
8       maintenance, and training of TARAM guidance and  
9       processes, including updating FAA Policy Statement  
10      PS-ANM-25-05, Risk Assessment Methodology for  
11      Transport Category Airplanes (dated November 4,  
12      2011) to reflect, among other things, current Na-  
13      tional Transportation Safety Board accident rates.

14      (b) REQUIRED UPDATES.—Not later than 60 days  
15      after the date of enactment of this section, the Adminis-  
16      trator shall revise FAA Policy Statement PS-ANM-25-  
17      05, Risk Assessment Methodology for Transport Category  
18      Airplanes (dated November 4, 2011) and any successor  
19      policy statement in accordance with the requirements of  
20      this section.

21      (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 130(c) of  
22      the Aircraft Certification, Safety, and Accountability Act  
23      (Public Law 116-260; 134 Stat. 2349) is amended to read  
24      as follows:

1       “(c) **REQUIRED NOTICE.**—The Administrator shall  
2 provide notice to the congressional committees of jurisdic-  
3 tion on the findings and recommendations of a TARAM  
4 conducted following a transport airplane accident in which  
5 a loss of life occurred.”.

6 **SEC. 12. EMPLOYEE REPORTING.**

7       (a) **WHISTLEBLOWER AUDIT.**—

8           (1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Inspector General of  
9 the Department of Transportation shall initiate an  
10 audit of the FAA, including the FAA Whistleblower  
11 Protection Program, to review whether the FAA is  
12 appropriately processing and acting on submitted  
13 complaints.

14           (2) **REQUIREMENT.**—The audit conducted  
15 under paragraph (1) shall not compromise the iden-  
16 tity of any individual who submitted a report  
17 through the Whistleblower Protection Program or  
18 the FAA Hotline of the FAA Office of Audit and  
19 Evaluation.

20       (b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 60 days after the date  
21 of enactment of this section, the Inspector General of the  
22 Department of Transportation shall submit to the appro-  
23 priate committees of Congress a report containing the re-  
24 sults of the audit conducted under subsection (a), together  
25 with recommendations for such legislation and administra-

1 tive action as the Inspector General determines appro-  
2 priate.

3 **SEC. 13. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.**

4 (a) INTERIM FINAL RULE.—Not later than 60 days  
5 after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary  
6 of Transportation shall issue an interim final rule to re-  
7 quire strict adherence to the requirements described in  
8 section 208 of title 18, United States Code.

9 (b) COMPLIANCE REVIEW AND BRIEFING.—Not later  
10 than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section,  
11 the Inspector General of the Department of Transpor-  
12 tation shall review the Department of Transportation's  
13 compliance with the requirements of this section and iden-  
14 tify any applicable conflict of interest waivers granted by  
15 the Federal Government for the Department of Transpor-  
16 tation relating to Department of Transportation and FAA  
17 employees, contracting, acquisition, and procurement, and  
18 shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress about  
19 the findings of such review.

○