

S 2658

Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act of 2016

Congress: 114 (2015–2017, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Transportation and Public Works

Introduced: Mar 9, 2016

Current Status: By Senator Thune from Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation filed written report under

Latest Action: By Senator Thune from Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation filed written report under authority of the order of the Senate of 12/10/2016. Report No. 114-428. Additional views filed. (Dec 20, 2016)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/senate-bill/2658>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Thune, John [R-SD]

Party: Republican • **State:** SD • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (3 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Ayotte, Kelly [R-NH]	R · NH		Mar 9, 2016
Sen. Cantwell, Maria [D-WA]	D · WA		Mar 9, 2016
Sen. Nelson, Bill [D-FL]	D · FL		Mar 9, 2016

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Reported By	Dec 7, 2016
Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee	Senate	Hearings By (full committee)	Mar 10, 2016

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Transportation and Public Works

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
114 HR 636	Related bill	Jul 15, 2016: Became Public Law No: 114-190.
114 HR 5291	Related bill	May 20, 2016: Referred to the Subcommittee on Aviation.
114 HR 5292	Related bill	May 20, 2016: Referred to the Subcommittee on Aviation.
114 S 571	Related bill	Dec 18, 2015: By Senator Thune from Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation filed written report. Report No. 114-198. Additional views filed.
114 HR 1086	Related bill	Feb 26, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Aviation.
114 S 573	Related bill	Feb 25, 2015: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.
114 HR 853	Related bill	Feb 11, 2015: Referred to the Subcommittee on Aviation.
114 S 239	Related bill	Jan 22, 2015: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act of 2016

This bill reauthorizes through FY2017 Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) operations and specified FAA programs.

The bill revises requirements for the airport improvement program and pilot program for passenger facility charges at nonhub airports.

The Government Accountability Office shall review privacy issues and concerns associated with the operation of unmanned aircraft (drones) in the national airspace system.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology and the FAA shall initiate a process to develop risk-based, consensus industry airworthiness standards for the safe integration of drones into the system.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) shall issue guidance for the operation of public drones.

The FAA shall carry out a pilot program for airspace hazard mitigation at airports and other critical infrastructure.

DOT shall issue a final rule authorizing the carriage of property by small drones for compensation or hire.

The FAA shall establish a Collegiate Training Initiative program for drones.

The bill requires the FAA to have a Senior Advisor for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration.

DOT shall establish a Safety Oversight and Certification Advisory Committee.

The FAA shall issue a final rule reorganizing the certification, and streamlining the approval of safety advancements, of small airplanes.

The FAA shall establish:

- the FAA Task Force on Flight Standards Reform, and
- a Regulatory Consistency Communications Board.

The FAA shall review and revise its safety workforce training strategy.

DOT shall take appropriate actions to promote U.S. aerospace standards, products, and services abroad.

The FAA shall:

- take specified actions to improve airline passenger safety,
- update automated weather observing systems, and
- appoint a Designated Agency Safety and Health Officer.

Pilot's Bill of Rights 2

The bill directs the FAA to issue or revise medical certification regulations to ensure that an individual may operate as a pilot of certain small aircraft if the flight and the individual meet certain criteria.

The FAA may not take enforcement action against a pilot for not holding a valid third-class medical certificate unless the

FAA has published final medical certification regulations in the Federal Register.

The bill amends the Pilot's Bill of Rights to authorize an individual adversely affected by an FAA decision to deny, suspend or revoke an airman certificate to file an appeal in the U.S. district court for a de novo hearing.

The bill establishes passenger air service improvements and consumer protections.

The bill amends the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 to extend through FY2017 DOT's Advisory Committee for Aviation Consumer Protection.

DOT may issue regulations to prohibit certain cell phone voice communications during the flight of an aircraft.

The bill reauthorizes through FY2017 the essential air service program and the small community air service development program.

The FAA shall conduct a return on investment assessment on each Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) program.

The bill prescribes requirements regarding:

- treatment of essential FAA employees during a furlough, and
- maximum age limits for hiring of air traffic controllers.

The bill applies federal civil service requirements to leave used by disabled armed forces veterans in the FAA personnel management system.

The bill revises requirements for overflights of National Parks.

The FAA shall continue operation of the Advanced Materials Center of Excellence.

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 20, 2016:** By Senator Thune from Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation filed written report under authority of the order of the Senate of 12/10/2016. Report No. 114-428. Additional views filed.
- **Dec 7, 2016:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Reported by Senator Thune with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. Without written report.
- **Dec 7, 2016:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 715.
- **Mar 16, 2016:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Ordered to be reported with an amendment in the nature of a substitute favorably.
- **Mar 10, 2016:** Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship. Hearings held. Hearings printed: S.Hrg. 114-635.
- **Mar 9, 2016:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 9, 2016:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.