

HR 3958

To direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to publish guidance and implementation procedures for unmanned aircraft systems with respect to environmental reviews, and for other purposes.

Congress: 118 (2023–2025, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Transportation and Public Works

Introduced: Jun 9, 2023

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Aviation.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Aviation. (Jun 12, 2023)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/3958>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. D'Esposito, Anthony [R-NY-4]

Party: Republican • **State:** NY • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Stanton, Greg [D-AZ-4]	D · AZ		Jun 9, 2023
Rep. Donalds, Byron [R-FL-19]	R · FL		Oct 19, 2023

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred to	Jun 12, 2023

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Transportation and Public Works

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
118 HR 3935	Related bill	May 16, 2024: Became Public Law No: 118-63.

Summary (as of Jun 9, 2023)

This bill directs the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to publish guidance and implementation procedures for unmanned aircraft systems (UAS), also known as drones, that specifically address environmental assessments and reviews.

For instance, the FAA guidance and implementation procedures must

- provide guidance for nationwide programmatic approaches for large-scale distributed UAS operations to leverage environmental assessments or environmental impact statements for subsequent related actions,
- contain intra-agency process improvements to avoid providing conflicting safety and environmental feedback to operators, and
- prioritize proposed projects or activities that can be shown to contain specific factors that benefit the environment (e.g., offsets or limits the impacts of non-zero emission activities).

The bill also directs the FAA, to the maximum extent practicable, to concurrently conduct reviews and analyses for an environmental assessment required as part of the review of a UAS's design, construction, maintenance and operational sustainability, airworthiness approval, or operational approval.

Further, the FAA must develop and establish substantive criteria and standards metrics to determine the airworthiness of an unmanned aircraft based on specific noise standards.

Actions Timeline

- **Jun 12, 2023:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Aviation.
- **Jun 9, 2023:** Introduced in House
- **Jun 9, 2023:** Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

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