

Weekly Update July 8, 2016

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*David Turch and Associates***WASHINGTON UPDATE****JULY 8, 2016****FAA EXTENSION BILL AGREEMENT**

House and Senate leaders along with the chairmen and ranking members of committees with jurisdiction over aviation issues have reached a last minute deal to authorize and fund the Federal Aviation Administration through September 2017 (the end of fiscal year 2017). This bipartisan agreement is expected to sail through Congress before the end of next week, when the agency's authorization is set to expire.

In order to reach a deal, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-PA) had to set aside his contentious proposal to spin-off the Air Traffic Control (ATC) system. With that road block out of the way, a bipartisan congressional deal was reached to extend FAA operations for one year that includes a host of policy guidelines and directives on streamlining and enhancing airport security.

In response to recent incidents of recreational drones interfering in wildfire suppression in California, the FAA extension bill beefs up fines that can be levied on would be violators. A person found guilty of interfering in wildlife suppression by flying a drone can face a civil penalty of up to \$20,000. The measure creates new processes to detect, identify, and mitigate unauthorized operation of unmanned aircraft around airports and critical infrastructure. In a victory for state and local governments, the legislation does not include a preemption clause that was in the Senate passed FAA reauthorization bill that would have gutted the ability of municipalities to regulate UAS flights within their boundaries.

The bill strengthens security for foreign airports by requiring comprehensive security assessments for all overseas airports serving the United States. In addition, the bill expands the TSA PreCheck program by directing TSA to partner with the private sector to develop enhance enrollment and vetting methods. By developing and marketing this program, Congress hopes that TSA can strengthen security by identifying trusted travelers, while also increasing operation efficiency of checkpoints by providing expedited screening to more passengers. In an effort to reduce passenger wait times through security, the FAA extension bill optimizes checkpoints by redeploying certain TSA personnel and assessing TSA's staffing allocation model. And for families traveling with young children, the bill requires airlines to generally

ensure that kids 13 years of age and under are seated adjacent to an adult or older child traveling with them.

The House is expected to vote on the bill next Monday or Tuesday under suspension of the rules, an expedited procedure that requires a two-thirds majority vote for passage. Once the House adopts the bill, the Senate is expected to quickly pass the bill sending it to the White House for President Obama's signature.

HOUSE ADOPTS MEASURE PREVENTING WOMEN FROM HAVING TO REGISTER FOR THE DRAFT

While women are now eligible to serve in all combat roles, they are not required to register with the Selective Service, unlike their male counterparts who are obligated to do so when they turn 18. If the House has its way, women will continue to be exempt from registering with the Selective Service. Earlier this week, an amendment to a government spending bill, sponsored by Representative Warren Davidson (R-OH), to prohibit federal funds from being used to change the Selective Service registration requirements was approved by a vote 217 to 203. The Senate, on the other hand, has taken the opposite approach in its version of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2017, which would require women to register for the draft. The United States did away with the draft at the tail end of the Vietnam War in 1973 and there is little, if any, political appetite on Capitol Hill to revisit this issue. However, with the Pentagon's new emphasis on gender equality in the military, it is likely only a matter of time before young women are required to join their male colleagues in registering with the Selective Service.

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