

FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION REAUTHORIZATION



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SOUTH DAKOTA BENEFITS

Infrastructure Investment & Rural Air Service Improvements

Provides a reauthorization of FAA programs and funding through fiscal year 2017. Increases authorizations for the Airport Improvement Program (AIP), which provides funding particularly important to small commercial and general aviation airports across South Dakota.

Maintains support for small community air service through the reauthorization of the Essential Air Service Program and increased funding for the Small Community Air Service Development Program.

Includes the Small Airport Regulation Relief Act to ensure airports facing falling enplanements, at least partially due to new FAA regulations, are able to maintain primary status and funding under the AIP. In South Dakota, this provision will benefit Pierre.

Codifies requirements for priority review of airport projects in cold weather states, such as South Dakota.

Directs the Department of Transportation (DOT) to create a working group on air service to small communities, including recommendations for how to address challenges associated with pilot supply.

Consumer Protections

Directs DOT to review airline complaints that often disproportionately impact travelers to and from small communities, including weather related flight cancellations and involuntary changes to itineraries.

Requires airlines, after appropriate rulemaking by the DOT, to provide refunds for delayed baggage, provide notice to families with children regarding seat assignments, standardize the disclosure of

ancillary fees such as baggage fees, change fees, and seat selection fees to passengers, and provide automatic refunds for services paid for, but not received.

Strengthens consumer complaint information notification at airlines and improves DOT's online communications tools for the traveling public.

General Aviation

Reinvigorates general aviation by including Pilots Bill of Rights 2 with reforms to the Third Class Medical Certificate process and an enhanced appeals process, including *de novo* review, for pilots facing FAA enforcement.

Enhances safety for low-altitude general aviation, like agricultural-applicators, by requiring marking of small towers.

Requires the FAA to clearly identify alternatives to traditional aviation gasoline and adopt a process to ensure the safety of modifications to existing aircraft prior to a transition to unleaded aviation fuel.

Requires the FAA to update and streamline maintenance and certification requirements for automated weather systems used at general aviation airports.

Requires the FAA to streamline the process for approving and installing safety enhancing technologies for small general aviation aircraft.