

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6561

To provide for certain requirements of the Federal Aviation Administration in response to requests for information by Congress, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 1, 2023

Mr. PANETTA (for himself, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. SHERMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To provide for certain requirements of the Federal Aviation Administration in response to requests for information by Congress, 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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Responsive Employees
5 Support Productive Educated Congressional Talk Act” or
6 the “RESPECT Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FAA RESPONSIVENESS TO CONGRESS.**

8 (a) PURPOSE.—This section is enacted pursuant to
9 the legislative oversight responsibilities of Congress and

1 to enable a Member of Congress to effectively represent
2 their constituents and respond to constituent inquiries.

3 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—If a Member of Congress sub-
4 mits to the FAA a written request for information on pro-
5 posed, previous, or current flight procedures or other data
6 or information relating to the District of such Member,
7 the following conditions apply:

8 (1) DATA REQUEST.—Not later than 90 days
9 after receipt of such request, the Administrator of
10 the FAA shall substantively respond in writing with
11 the requested data or information in the format re-
12 quested by the Member of Congress, if—

13 (A) the data is within the control of the
14 FAA; and

15 (B) the data would be otherwise appro-
16 priate to provide if requested—

17 (i) by an airline, an airport, a flight
18 procedure proponent, an Aviation Round-
19 table, or anyone not employed by the FAA;
20 or

21 (ii) via a Freedom of Information re-
22 quest from any individual or any entity.

23 (2) NOTIFICATION.—If the Administrator does
24 not provide the requested information pursuant to
25 paragraph (1), the Administrator shall notify the re-

1 requesting Member of Congress, Congress, and the
2 Chairman and Ranking Member of the Transpor-
3 tation and Infrastructure Committee of the House of
4 Representatives.

5 (c) STAFFING OF MEETINGS.—If a Member of Con-
6 gress submits to the FAA a written request for the FAA
7 to provide staff at a private or public meeting with the
8 Member, the Administrator shall provide such staff if—

9 (1) the request is made in writing at least 30
10 days before the meeting date; and

11 (2) the request is made on the same terms and
12 conditions as specified by FAA appearances at Avia-
13 tion Roundtable meetings.

14 (d) NOTIFICATION.—If the Administrator does not
15 comply with a request made by a Member of Congress (as
16 described in subsection (c)), the Administrator shall pro-
17 vide the requesting Member of Congress, Congress, and
18 the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Transportation
19 and Infrastructure Committee of the House of Represent-
20 atives with an explanation why the request will not be ful-
21 filled.

22 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following defi-
23 nitions apply:

24 (1) FLIGHT PROCEDURE.—The term “flight
25 procedure” means a preplanned Instrument Flight

1 Rules (IFR) procedure published for pilot use, in
2 graphic or textual format, that provides obstruction
3 clearance from the terminal area to the en route
4 structure (departure) or from the en route structure
5 to the terminal area (arrival).

6 (2) PROCEDURE PROPONENT.—The term “pro-
7 cedure proponent” means a person or entity pro-
8 posing a new or modified flight procedure.

9 (3) AVIATION ROUNDTABLE.—The term “Avia-
10 tion Roundtable” means an organization designed to
11 address community concerns over a sustained period
12 of time regarding aircraft operations often associ-
13 ated with a nearby airport.

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