

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3185

To enhance flight options for consumers flying to and from Ronald Reagan  
Washington National Airport.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 10, 2023

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself and Mr. OWENS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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## A BILL

To enhance flight options for consumers flying to and from  
Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.

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 “Direct Capital Access  
5 Act of 2023” or the “DCA Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. ADDITIONAL WITHIN AND BEYOND PERIMETER**  
2 **SLOT EXEMPTIONS AT RONALD REAGAN**  
3 **WASHINGTON NATIONAL AIRPORT.**

4 (a) INCREASE IN NUMBER OF SLOT EXEMPTIONS.—  
5 Section 41718 of title 49, United States Code, is amended  
6 by adding at the end the following new subsection:

7 “(i) ADDITIONAL SLOT EXEMPTIONS.—

8 “(1) INCREASE IN SLOT EXEMPTIONS.—Not  
9 later than 90 days after the date of enactment of  
10 this subsection, the Secretary shall grant, by order,  
11 56 exemptions from—

12 “(A) the application of sections  
13 49104(a)(5), 49109, and 41714 to air carriers  
14 to operate limited frequencies and aircraft on  
15 routes between Ronald Reagan Washington Na-  
16 tional Airport and airports located within or be-  
17 yond the perimeter described in section 49109;  
18 and

19 “(B) the requirements of subparts K, S,  
20 and T of part 93, Code of Federal Regulations.

21 “(2) INCREMENTAL DCA SLOT ALLOCATIONS.—  
22 Of the slot exemptions made available under para-  
23 graph (1), the Secretary shall make 40 available to  
24 incumbent air carriers qualifying for status as a  
25 non-limited incumbent carrier and 16 available to in-  
26 cumbent carriers qualifying for status as a limited

1 incumbent carrier at Ronald Reagan Washington  
2 National Airport as of the date of enactment of this  
3 subsection. Each such air carrier—

4 “(A) may operate up to a maximum of 8  
5 of the newly authorized slot exemptions;

6 “(B) shall have sole discretion concerning  
7 the use of an exemption made available under  
8 paragraph (1), including the initial or any sub-  
9 sequent within or beyond perimeter destinations  
10 to be served; and

11 “(C) shall file a notice of intent with the  
12 Secretary and subsequent notices of intent,  
13 when appropriate, to inform the Secretary of  
14 any change in circumstances concerning the use  
15 of any exemption made available under para-  
16 graph (1).

17 “(3) NOTICES OF INTENT.—Notices of intent  
18 under paragraph (2)(C) shall specify the within or  
19 beyond perimeter destinations to be served.

20 “(4) CONDITIONS.—Flight operations carried  
21 out by an air carrier using an exemption granted  
22 under this subsection shall be subject to the fol-  
23 lowing conditions:

24 “(A) An air carrier granted an exemption  
25 under this subsection is prohibited from trans-

1           ferring the rights to its slot exemptions pursu-  
2           ant to section 41714(j).

3           “(B) The exemptions granted under sub-  
4           section (2)—

5                   “(i) may not be for operations be-  
6                   tween the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00  
7                   a.m.; and

8                   “(ii) may not increase the number of  
9                   operations at Ronald Reagan Washington  
10                  National Airport in any 1-hour period dur-  
11                  ing the hours between 7:00 a.m. and 9:59  
12                  p.m. by more than 8 operations.”.

13           (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 41718 of  
14           title 49, United States Code, is amended—

15                   (1) in subsection (c)(2)—

16                           (A) in subparagraph (A)—

17                                   (i) in clause (i), by inserting “or  
18                                   (i)(2)” after “(g)(2)”; and

19                                   (ii) in clause (ii), by striking “and  
20                                   (g)” and inserting “(g), and (i)”; and

21                           (B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “or  
22                           (i)(2)” after “(g)(3)”; and

23                   (2) in subsection (h)(1), by inserting “or (i)”  
24           after “subsection (g)”.

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