

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3965

To direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to improve the process for establishing and revising flight paths and procedures, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 5, 2015

Mr. GALLEGO (for himself, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GRAYSON, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, Miss RICE of New York, and Mr. BEYER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to improve the process for establishing and revising flight paths and procedures, 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 “FAA Community Ac-
5 countability Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. FLIGHT PATHS AND PROCEDURES.**

2 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in con-
3 sidering new or revised flight paths or procedures as part
4 of the implementation of the Next Generation Air Trans-
5 portation System, the Administrator of the Federal Avia-
6 tion Administration—

7 (1) shall take actions to limit negative impacts
8 on the human environment in the vicinity of an af-
9 fected airport; and

10 (2) may give preference to overlays of existing
11 flight paths or procedures to ensure compatibility
12 with land use in the vicinity of an affected airport.

13 **SEC. 3. FAA COMMUNITY OMBUDSMAN.**

14 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
15 the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of
16 the Federal Aviation Administration shall appoint an FAA
17 Community Ombudsman for each region of the Federal
18 Aviation Administration.

19 (b) DUTIES.—The Ombudsmen appointed in accord-
20 ance with subsection (a) shall—

21 (1) act as a liaison between affected commu-
22 nities and the Administrator with respect to prob-
23 lems related to the impact of commercial aviation on
24 the human environment, including concerns regard-
25 ing aircraft noise, pollution, and safety;

1 (2) monitor the impact of the implementation of
2 the Next Generation Air Transportation System on
3 communities in the vicinity of affected airports;

4 (3) make recommendations to the Adminis-
5 trator—

6 (A) to address concerns raised by commu-
7 nities; and

8 (B) to improve the use of community com-
9 ments in Administration decisionmaking proc-
10 esses; and

11 (4) report to Congress periodically on issues re-
12 lated to the impact of commercial aviation on the
13 human environment and on Administration respon-
14 siveness to concerns raised by affected communities.

15 **SEC. 4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
17 sion of law, in implementing the Next Generation Air
18 Transportation System, the Administrator of the Federal
19 Aviation Administration may not treat the establishment
20 or revision of a flight path or procedure as covered by a
21 categorical exclusion (as defined in section 1508.4 of title
22 40, Code of Federal Regulations) if an FAA Community
23 Ombudsman or the operator of an airport affected by such
24 establishment or revision submits written notification to
25 the Administrator that—

1 (1) extraordinary circumstances exist; or

2 (2) the establishment or revision will have a sig-
3 nificant adverse impact on the human environment
4 in the vicinity of such airport.

5 (b) NOTIFICATIONS.—At least 30 days before treat-
6 ing the establishment or revision of a flight path or proce-
7 dure as covered by a categorical exclusion, the Adminis-
8 trator shall provide notice and an opportunity for com-
9 ment to persons affected by such establishment or revi-
10 sion, including the operator of any affected airport.

11 **SEC. 5. RECONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN FLIGHT PATHS**
12 **AND PROCEDURES.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
14 sion of law, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Ad-
15 ministration shall reconsider a flight path or procedure es-
16 tablished or revised after February 14, 2012, as part of
17 the implementation of the Next Generation Air Transpor-
18 tation System if an FAA Community Ombudsman or the
19 operator of an airport affected by such establishment or
20 revision submits written notification to the Administrator
21 that the establishment or revision is resulting in a signifi-
22 cant adverse impact on the human environment in the vi-
23 cinity of such airport.

24 (b) PROCESS.—In reconsidering a flight path or pro-
25 cedure under subsection (a), the Administrator shall—

1 (1) provide notice of the reconsideration and an
2 opportunity for public comment;

3 (2) assess the impacts on the human environ-
4 ment of such flight path or procedure; and

5 (3) not later than 180 days after the date on
6 which the relevant notification was received, submit
7 to Congress and make available to the public a re-
8 port that—

9 (A) addresses comments received pursuant
10 to paragraph (1);

11 (B) describes the results of the assessment
12 carried out under paragraph (2); and

13 (C) describes any changes to be made to
14 such flight path or procedure or the justifica-
15 tion for not making any change.

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