

“482. ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS FOR AIRPORT AND AIRWAY TRUST FACILITIES48201.”

SEC. 278. RURAL AIR SERVICE SURVIVAL ACT.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Rural Air Service Survival Act”. 49 USC 40101 note.

(b) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds that—

(1) air service in rural areas is essential to a national and international transportation network; 49 USC 41742 note.

(2) the rural air service infrastructure supports the safe operation of all air travel;

(3) rural air service creates economic benefits for all air carriers by making the national aviation system available to passengers from rural areas;

(4) rural air service has suffered since deregulation;

(5) the essential air service program under the Department of Transportation—

(A) provides essential airline access to rural and isolated rural communities throughout the Nation;

(B) is necessary for the economic growth and development of rural communities;

(C) is a critical component of the national and international transportation system of the United States; and

(D) has endured serious funding cuts in recent years; and

(6) a reliable source of funding must be established to maintain air service in rural areas and the essential air service program.

(c) **ESSENTIAL AIR SERVICE AUTHORIZATION.**—Section 41742 is amended to read as follows:

“§ 41742. Essential air service authorization

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Out of the amounts received by the Federal Aviation Administration credited to the account established under section 45303 of this title or otherwise provided to the Administration, the sum of \$50,000,000 is authorized and shall be made available immediately for obligation and expenditure to carry out the essential air service program under this subchapter for each fiscal year.

“(b) **FUNDING FOR SMALL COMMUNITY AIR SERVICE.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, moneys credited to the account established under section 45303(a) of this title, including the funds derived from fees imposed under the authority contained in section 45301(a) of this title, shall be used to carry out the essential air service program under this subchapter. Notwithstanding section 47114(g) of this title, any amounts from those fees that are not obligated or expended at the end of the fiscal year for the purpose of funding the essential air service program under this subchapter shall be made available to the Administration for use in improving rural air safety under subchapter I of chapter 471 of this title and shall be used exclusively for projects at rural airports under this subchapter.

“(c) **SPECIAL RULE FOR FISCAL YEAR 1997.**—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b), in fiscal year 1997, amounts in excess of \$75,000,000 that are collected in fees pursuant to section 45301(a)(1) of this title shall be available for the essential air service program under this subchapter, in addition to amounts specifically provided for in appropriations Acts.”.

(d) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—The table of sections for chapter 417 is amended by striking the item relating to section 41742 and inserting the following:

“41742. Essential air service authorization.”.

TITLE III—AVIATION SECURITY

SEC. 301. REPORT INCLUDING PROPOSED LEGISLATION ON FUNDING FOR AIRPORT SECURITY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, in cooperation with other appropriate persons, shall conduct a study and submit to Congress a report on whether, and if so how, to transfer certain responsibilities of air carriers under Federal law for security activities conducted onsite at commercial service airports to airport operators or to the Federal Government or to provide for shared responsibilities between air carriers and airport operators or the Federal Government.

(b) **CONTENTS OF REPORT.**—The report submitted under this section shall—

(1) examine potential sources of Federal and non-Federal revenue that may be used to fund security activities, including providing grants from funds received as fees collected under a fee system established under subtitle C of title II of this Act and the amendments made by that subtitle; and

(2) provide legislative proposals, if necessary, for accomplishing the transfer of responsibilities referred to in subsection (a).

49 USC 44935
note.

SEC. 302. CERTIFICATION OF SCREENING COMPANIES.

The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration is directed to certify companies providing security screening and to improve the training and testing of security screeners through development of uniform performance standards for providing security screening services.

49 USC 44913
note.

SEC. 303. WEAPONS AND EXPLOSIVE DETECTION STUDY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall enter into an arrangement with the Director of the National Academy of Sciences (or if the National Academy of Sciences is not available, the head of another equivalent entity) to conduct a study in accordance to this section.

(b) **PANEL OF EXPERTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In carrying out a study under this section, the Director of the National Academy of Sciences (or the head of another equivalent entity) shall establish a panel (hereinafter in this section referred to as the “panel”).

(2) **EXPERTISE.**—Each member of the panel shall have expertise in weapons and explosive detection technology, security, air carrier and airport operations, or another appropriate area. The Director of the National Academy of Sciences (or the head of another equivalent entity) shall ensure that the panel has an appropriate number of representatives of the areas specified in the preceding sentence.

(c) **STUDY.**—The panel, in consultation with the National Science and Technology Council, representatives of appropriate