

**Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 6270, as Amended**

**(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)**

117<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 6270

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a pilot program to provide grants related to advanced air mobility infrastructure, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 14, 2021

Mr. LARSEN of Washington (for himself, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, and Ms. TITUS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a pilot program to provide grants related to advanced air mobility infrastructure, 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 “Advanced Aviation In-  
5 frastructure Modernization Act” or the “AAIM Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY INFRASTRUCTURE PILOT**  
2 **PROGRAM.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after  
4 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall es-  
5 tablish a pilot program to provide grants that—

6 (1) assist an eligible entity to plan for the de-  
7 velopment and deployment of infrastructure nec-  
8 essary to facilitate AAM operations in the United  
9 States; and

10 (2) make funding available for costs directly re-  
11 lated to construction of public-use vertiports or asso-  
12 ciated infrastructure.

13 (b) PLANNING GRANTS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide  
15 grants to eligible entities to develop comprehensive  
16 plans under paragraph (2) related to AAM infra-  
17 structure.

18 (2) COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year  
20 after receiving a grant under this subsection, an  
21 eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary a  
22 comprehensive plan in a format that may be  
23 published on the website of the Department of  
24 Transportation.

25 (B) PLAN CONTENTS.—The Secretary  
26 shall establish content requirements for com-

1           prehensive plans submitted under this sub-  
2           section, which may include the following:

3                   (i) The identification of planned or  
4                   potential public-use or private-use vertiport  
5                   locations.

6                   (ii) A description of infrastructure  
7                   necessary to support AAM operations.

8                   (iii) A description of types of planned  
9                   or potential AAM operations.

10                  (iv) The identification of physical and  
11                  digital infrastructure required to meet the  
12                  standards for vertiport design and per-  
13                  formance characteristics established by the  
14                  Federal Aviation Administration (as in ef-  
15                  fect on the date on which the Secretary  
16                  issues a grant to an eligible entity), includ-  
17                  ing modifications to existing infrastructure  
18                  and ground sensors, electric charging and  
19                  other fueling requirements, electric utility  
20                  requirements, wireless and cybersecurity  
21                  requirements, and other necessary hard-  
22                  ware or software.

23                  (v) A description of potential environ-  
24                  mental effects of planned construction or  
25                  siting of public-use vertiports, including ef-

1                   forts to reduce the adverse effects of po-  
2                   tential aviation noise.

3                   (vi) A description of how planned pub-  
4                   lic-use or private-use vertiport locations,  
5                   including new or repurposed infrastruc-  
6                   ture, fit into existing State and local trans-  
7                   portation systems and networks, includ-  
8                   ing—

9                   (I) connectivity to existing public  
10                  transportation hubs and intermodal  
11                  and multimodal facilities;

12                  (II) opportunities to create new  
13                  service to areas underserved by air  
14                  transportation, without compromising  
15                  safety and efficiency of other facilities  
16                  and airspace users; and

17                  (III) any potential conflicts to ex-  
18                  isting aviation infrastructure that may  
19                  arise from the proposed location of  
20                  the vertiport.

21                  (vii) A description of how public-use  
22                  vertiport planning will be incorporated in  
23                  State or metropolitan planning documents.

24                  (viii) The identification of the process  
25                  an eligible entity will undertake to ensure

1 an adequate level of community engage-  
2 ment for planned public-use vertiport loca-  
3 tions and planned or anticipated AAM op-  
4 erations, including engagement with under-  
5 served communities, individuals with dis-  
6 abilities, and racial and ethnic minorities,  
7 to address equity of access and other prior-  
8 ities.

9 (ix) The identification of the actions  
10 necessary for an eligible entity to under-  
11 take the construction of public-use  
12 vertiports, such as planning studies to as-  
13 sess existing infrastructure, environmental  
14 studies, studies of projected economic ben-  
15 efit to the community, lease or acquisition  
16 of an easement or land for new infrastruc-  
17 ture, and activities related to other capital  
18 costs.

19 (x) The identification of State, local,  
20 or private sources of funding an eligible  
21 entity may use to assist with the construc-  
22 tion or operation of a public-use vertiport.

23 (3) APPLICATION.—To apply for a grant under  
24 this subsection, an eligible entity shall provide to the  
25 Secretary an application in such form, at such time,

1 and containing such information as the Secretary  
2 may require.

3 (4) SELECTION.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—In awarding grants  
5 under this subsection, the Secretary shall con-  
6 sider the following:

7 (i) Geographic diversity.

8 (ii) The need for comprehensive plans  
9 that—

10 (I) ensure the safe integration of  
11 AAM operations into the National  
12 Airspace System;

13 (II) improve transportation safe-  
14 ty, connectivity, access, and equity in  
15 both rural and urban regions in the  
16 United States;

17 (III) leverage existing public  
18 transportation systems and intermodal  
19 and multimodal facilities;

20 (IV) reduce surface congestion  
21 and the environmental impacts of  
22 transportation;

23 (V) grow the economy and create  
24 jobs in the United States; and

1 (VI) encourage community en-  
2 gagement when planning for AAM re-  
3 lated infrastructure.

4 (B) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall  
5 prioritize awarding grants under this subsection  
6 to eligible entities that partner with commercial  
7 AAM entities, institutions of higher education,  
8 research institutions, or other relevant stake-  
9 holders to develop and prepare a comprehensive  
10 plan.

11 (5) GRANT AMOUNT.—Each grant made under  
12 this subsection shall be made in an amount that is  
13 not more than \$1,000,000.

14 (6) BRIEFING.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180  
16 days after the first comprehensive plan is sub-  
17 mitted under paragraph (2), and every 180  
18 days thereafter, the Secretary shall provide a  
19 briefing to the appropriate committees of Con-  
20 gress on the comprehensive plans submitted to  
21 the Secretary under such paragraph.

22 (B) CONTENTS.—The briefing required  
23 under subparagraph (A) shall include—

24 (i) an evaluation of all planned or pro-  
25 posed public-use vertiport locations in-

1           cluded in the comprehensive plans sub-  
2           mitted under paragraph (2) and how such  
3           planned or proposed public-use vertiport  
4           locations may fit into the overall United  
5           States transportation system and network;  
6           and

7                   (ii) a description of lessons or best  
8                   practices learned through the review of  
9                   comprehensive plans and how the Sec-  
10                  retary will incorporate any such lessons or  
11                  best practices into Federal standards or  
12                  guidance for the design and operation of  
13                  AAM infrastructure and facilities.

14       (c) CONSTRUCTION GRANTS.—

15           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award  
16           grants to covered recipients to carry out construc-  
17           tion activities described under paragraph (2).

18           (2) ELIGIBLE USES.—A covered recipient may  
19           use grant funds awarded under this subsection for  
20           design, bidding, and environmental study activities,  
21           and other capital costs, as the Secretary determines  
22           appropriate, directly related to the construction of a  
23           public-use vertiport or associated infrastructure pur-  
24           suant to the comprehensive plan submitted by such  
25           covered recipient.



1           (3) REQUIREMENTS.—The requirements of sub-  
2 sections (b) and (c) of section 47112 of title 49,  
3 United States Code, and section 50101 of such title,  
4 shall apply to a grant awarded under this sub-  
5 section.

6           (4) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may not  
7 award a grant under this subsection—

8                 (A) for the acquisition, conversion, or ret-  
9 rofitting of AAM aircraft; or

10                (B) for the construction of private-use  
11 vertiports or associated infrastructure.

12           (5) GRANT TIMING.—The Secretary may not  
13 issue a grant under this subsection until—

14                 (A) the Administrator of the Federal Avia-  
15 tion Administration has—

16                     (i) issued type certificates for 2 or  
17 more models of aircraft designed to provide  
18 AAM transportation; and

19                     (ii) published an advisory circular con-  
20 taining appropriate standards for vertiport  
21 design and performance characteristics and  
22 vertiport siting; and

23                 (B) the Secretary has—

24                     (i) determined that 2 or more AAM  
25 operators hold certificates under part 119

1 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations,  
2 for such operators to perform air carrier  
3 operations covered under part 135 of such  
4 title; and

5 (ii) issued, to 2 or more air carriers  
6 formed to provide AAM transportation,  
7 certificates under chapter 411 of title 49,  
8 United States Code.

9 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

10 (1) AUTHORIZATION.—There are authorized to  
11 be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this  
12 section \$12,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2022  
13 and 2023, to remain available until expended.

14 (2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Of the  
15 amounts made available under paragraph (1), the  
16 Secretary may retain up to 1 percent for personnel,  
17 contracting, and other costs to establish and admin-  
18 ister the pilot program under this section.

19 (e) TERMINATION.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—No grant may be awarded  
21 under this section after September 30, 2023.

22 (2) CONTINUED FUNDING.—Funds authorized  
23 to be appropriated pursuant to subsection (d) may  
24 be expended after September 30, 2023—

1 (A) for grants awarded prior to September  
2 30, 2023; and

3 (B) for administrative expenses.

4 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

5 (1) ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY; AAM.—The terms  
6 “advanced air mobility” and “AAM” mean an air  
7 transportation system that transports individuals  
8 and property between points in the United States  
9 using aircraft, such as remotely piloted, autonomous,  
10 or vertical take-off and landing aircraft, including  
11 those powered by electric or hybrid driven propul-  
12 sion, in both controlled and uncontrolled airspace.

13 (2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-  
14 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-  
15 gress” means the Committee on Transportation and  
16 Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and  
17 the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-  
18 portation of the Senate.

19 (3) COMMERCIAL AAM ENTITIES.—The term  
20 “commercial AAM entities” means—

21 (A) manufacturers of aircraft, avionics,  
22 propulsion systems, and air traffic management  
23 systems related to AAM; and

24 (B) intended commercial operators of AAM  
25 aircraft and systems.

1 (4) COVERED RECIPIENT.—The term “covered  
2 recipient” means the recipient of a grant under sub-  
3 section (b) who has submitted a comprehensive  
4 plan—

5 (A) that has been reviewed by the Sec-  
6 retary pursuant to subsection (b); and

7 (B) that the Secretary has determined con-  
8 tains proposed projects that comply with the  
9 standards for vertiport design, performance,  
10 and siting characteristics described in a pub-  
11 lished advisory circular.

12 (5) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-  
13 ty” means—

14 (A) a State, local, or Tribal government,  
15 including a political subdivision thereof;

16 (B) an airport sponsor;

17 (C) a transit agency;

18 (D) a port authority;

19 (E) a metropolitan planning organization;

20 or

21 (F) any combination or consortium of the  
22 entities described in subparagraphs (A) through  
23 (E).

24 (6) METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZA-  
25 TION.—The term “metropolitan planning organiza-

1       tion” has the meaning given such term in section  
2       5303(b) of title 49, United States Code.

3           (7) PUBLIC-USE VERTIPOINT.—The term “pub-  
4       lic-use vertiport” means a designated location used  
5       or intended to be used for public purposes and to  
6       support AAM operations, including the landing,  
7       takeoff, loading, taxiing, parking, and storage of  
8       vertical take-off and landing aircraft.

9           (8) STATE.—The term “State” means a State  
10       of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puer-  
11       to Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the  
12       Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam.

13          (9) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
14       the Secretary of Transportation.

15          (10) VERTICAL TAKE-OFF AND LANDING AIR-  
16       CRAFT.—The term “vertical take-off and landing  
17       aircraft” means an aircraft with lift/thrust units  
18       used to generate powered lift and control and with  
19       2 or more lift/thrust units used to provide lift during  
20       vertical take-off or landing.

21   **SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

22       Nothing in this Act may be construed as conferring  
23       upon any person, State, local, or Tribal government the  
24       authority to determine the safety of any AAM operation  
25       or the feasibility of simultaneous operations by AAM and

- 1 conventional aircraft within any given area of the National
- 2 Airspace System.