

Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 884

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

117TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 884

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a national aviation preparedness plan for communicable disease outbreaks, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 5, 2021

Mr. LARSEN of Washington (for himself, Mr. BEYER, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. CARSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a national aviation preparedness plan for communicable disease outbreaks, 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 “National Aviation Pre-
5 paredness Plan Act of 2022”.

1 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL AVIATION PREPAREDNESS PLAN.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the
3 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transpor-
4 tation, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and
5 Human Services, the Secretary of Homeland Security, and
6 the heads of such other Federal departments or agencies
7 as the Secretary of Transportation considers appropriate,
8 shall develop a national aviation preparedness plan for
9 communicable disease outbreaks.

10 (b) CONTENTS OF PLAN.—The plan developed under
11 subsection (a) shall, at a minimum—

12 (1) provide airports and air carriers with an
13 adaptable and scalable framework with which to
14 align the individual plans, including the emergency
15 response plans, of such airports and air carriers and
16 provide guidance as to each individual plan;

17 (2) improve coordination among airports, air
18 carriers, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the
19 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, other
20 appropriate Federal entities, and State and local
21 governments and health agencies with respect to
22 preparing for and responding to communicable dis-
23 ease outbreaks;

24 (3) to the extent practicable, improve coordina-
25 tion among relevant international entities;

1 (4) create a process to identify appropriate per-
2 sonal protective equipment, if any, for covered em-
3 ployees to reduce the likelihood of exposure to a cov-
4 ered communicable disease, and thereafter issue rec-
5 ommendations for the equipage of such employees;

6 (5) create a process to identify appropriate
7 techniques, strategies, and protective infrastructure,
8 if any, for the cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitization
9 of aircraft and enclosed facilities owned, operated, or
10 used by an air carrier or airport, and thereafter
11 issue recommendations pertaining to such tech-
12 niques, strategies, and protective infrastructure;

13 (6) identify and assign Federal agency roles in
14 the deployment of emerging and existing tech-
15 nologies and solutions to reduce covered commu-
16 nicable diseases in the aviation ecosystem;

17 (7) clearly delineate the responsibilities of the
18 sponsors and operators of airports, air carriers, and
19 Federal agencies in responding to a covered commu-
20 nicable disease;

21 (8) incorporate, as appropriate, the rec-
22 ommendations made by the Comptroller General of
23 the United States to the Secretary of Transportation
24 contained in the report titled “Air Travel and Com-
25 municable Diseases: Comprehensive Federal Plan

1 Needed for U.S. Aviation System’s Preparedness”,
2 issued in December 2015 (GAO-16-127);

3 (9) consider the latest peer-reviewed scientific
4 studies that address communicable disease with re-
5 spect to air transportation; and

6 (10) consider funding constraints.

7 (c) CONSULTATION.—When developing the plan
8 under subsection (a), the Secretary of Transportation
9 shall consult with aviation industry and labor stake-
10 holders, including representatives of—

11 (1) air carriers, which shall include domestic air
12 carriers consisting of major air carriers, low-cost
13 carriers, regional air carriers and cargo carriers;

14 (2) airport operators, including with respect to
15 large hub, medium hub, small hub, and nonhub com-
16 mercial service airports;

17 (3) labor organizations that represent airline pi-
18 lots, flight attendants, air carrier airport customer
19 service representatives, and air carrier maintenance,
20 repair, and overhaul workers;

21 (4) the labor organization certified under sec-
22 tion 7111 of title 5, United States Code, as the ex-
23 clusive bargaining representative of air traffic con-
24 trollers of the Federal Aviation Administration;

1 (5) the labor organization certified under such
2 section as the exclusive bargaining representative of
3 airway transportation systems specialists and avia-
4 tion safety inspectors of the Federal Aviation Ad-
5 ministration;

6 (6) trade associations representing air carriers
7 and airports;

8 (7) aircraft manufacturing companies;

9 (8) general aviation; and

10 (9) such other stakeholders as the Secretary
11 considers appropriate.

12 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after the plan
13 is developed under subsection (a), the Secretary shall sub-
14 mit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastruc-
15 ture of the House of Representatives and the Committee
16 on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate
17 a report that includes such plan.

18 (e) REVIEW OF PLAN.—Not later than 1 year after
19 the date on which a report is submitted under subsection
20 (d), and again not later than 5 years thereafter, the Sec-
21 retary shall review the plan included in such report and,
22 after consultation with aviation industry and labor stake-
23 holders, make changes by rule as the Secretary considers
24 appropriate.

1 (f) GAO STUDY.—Not later than 18 months after the
2 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
3 shall conduct and submit to the Committee on Transpor-
4 tation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives
5 and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-
6 tation of the Senate a study assessing the national avia-
7 tion preparedness plan developed under subsection (a), in-
8 cluding—

9 (1) whether such plan—

10 (A) is responsive to any previous rec-
11 ommendations relating to aviation preparedness
12 with respect to an outbreak of a covered com-
13 municable disease or global health emergency
14 made by the Comptroller General; and

15 (B) meets the obligations of the United
16 States under international conventions and
17 treaties; and

18 (2) the extent to which the United States avia-
19 tion system is prepared to respond to an outbreak
20 of a covered communicable disease.

21 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 (1) COVERED EMPLOYEE.—The term “covered
23 employee” means—

24 (A) an individual whose job duties require
25 interaction with air carrier passengers on a reg-

1 ular and continuing basis and who is an em-
2 ployee of—

3 (i) an air carrier;

4 (ii) an air carrier contractor;

5 (iii) an airport; or

6 (iv) the Federal Government; or

7 (B) an air traffic controller or systems
8 safety specialist of the Federal Aviation Admin-
9 istration.

10 (2) COVERED COMMUNICABLE DISEASE.—The
11 term “covered communicable disease” means a com-
12 municable disease that has the potential to cause a
13 future epidemic or pandemic of infectious disease
14 that would constitute a public health emergency of
15 international concern as declared, after the date of
16 enactment of this Act, by the Secretary of Health
17 and Human Services under section 319 of the Public
18 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d).