

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. _____
OFFERED BY MRS. WATSON COLEMAN OF NEW
JERSEY

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Securing Air Travel
3 Act”.

4 SEC. 2. SIGNAGE.

5 Section 44901 of title 49, United States Code, is
6 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
7 section:

8 “(m) SIGNAGE REGARDING FIREARMS.—

9 “(1) CHECKPOINT SIGNAGE.—Not later than
10 one year after the date of the enactment of this sub-
11 section, the Administrator of the Transportation Se-
12 curity Administration shall display uniform signage
13 in passenger screening checkpoints to inform individ-
14 uals at such checkpoints of restrictions regarding
15 the carrying of a firearm in the sterile area of an
16 airport. Such signage shall include visual elements
17 and a concise description of the maximum criminal

1 and civil penalties (with relevant statutory or regu-
2 latory citations) for unlawfully carrying a firearm in
3 the sterile area of an airport.

4 “(2) PLACEMENT.—Signage under paragraph
5 (1) shall be prominently displayed and located in
6 such a manner that it would reasonably be expected
7 to be seen by an individual prior to entering the pas-
8 senger screening checkpoint.

9 “(3) AIRPORTS WITH FREQUENT FIREARM
10 INTERDICTIONS.—Not later than one year after the
11 date of the enactment of this subsection and bienni-
12 ally thereafter, the Administrator of the Transpor-
13 tation Security Administration shall publish a list of
14 not fewer than 25 airports at which firearms were
15 most frequently interdicted at passenger screening
16 checkpoints in the prior two years. If with respect to
17 any such list there are fewer than 25 such airports,
18 such list shall include as many of such airports as
19 are otherwise described in this paragraph.

20 “(4) ADDITIONAL ENHANCED SIGNAGE FOR
21 AIRPORTS WITH FREQUENT FIREARM INTERDIC-
22 TIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of
23 the publication of each list required under paragraph
24 (3), the Administrator of the Transportation Secu-
25 rity Administration shall require each airport in-

1 cluded on the list to install additional enhanced sign-
2 age at all passenger terminal entrances to such air-
3 ports to inform the public and individuals planning
4 to enter a passenger screening checkpoint of the re-
5 strictions regarding the carrying of a firearm in the
6 sterile area of the airport and, as applicable, State,
7 local, territorial, or other jurisdiction-specific restric-
8 tions on carrying firearms in the publicly-accessible
9 areas of the airport. Such additional enhanced sign-
10 age shall be consistent for all airports required to in-
11 stall such additional enhanced signage under this
12 paragraph, except, as the case may be, for descrip-
13 tions of such applicable State, local, territorial, or
14 other jurisdiction-specific restrictions. The Adminis-
15 trator may permit an airport to remove such signage
16 if such airport is not included on a subsequent list.

17 “(5) OUTDATED SIGNAGE.—If any relevant in-
18 formation on signage installed pursuant to this sub-
19 section is rendered inaccurate due to statutory, reg-
20 ulatory, or other changes, the Administrator shall
21 ensure such signage is updated in a timely manner,
22 except this paragraph does not apply in the case of
23 annual inflation adjustments to civil monetary pen-
24 alties.

25 “(6) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

1 “(A) PASSENGER SCREENING CHECK-
2 POINT.—The term ‘passenger screening check-
3 point’ means the designated area at each air-
4 port located in the United States at which the
5 Transportation Security Administration, or an
6 entity authorized by the Administration pursu-
7 ant to section 44920, or other comparable au-
8 thority, provides for the screening of passengers
9 and carry-on baggage.

10 “(B) PASSENGER TERMINAL ENTRANCE.—
11 The term ‘passenger terminal entrance’ means
12 the area at each airport located in the United
13 States where individuals arriving to the airport
14 by means other than a flight first enter the ter-
15 minal or other comparable enclosure containing
16 passenger facilities of the airport located prior
17 to the passenger screening checkpoint.

18 “(C) STERILE AREA.—The term ‘sterile
19 area’ has the meaning given such term in sec-
20 tion 1540.5 of title 49, Code of Federal Regula-
21 tions.”.

22 **SEC. 3. PUBLIC AWARENESS INITIATIVES.**

23 (a) CAMPAIGN.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—

1 (A) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than
2 120 days after the date of the enactment of this
3 Act, the Administrator of the Transportation
4 Security Administration shall implement a pub-
5 lic awareness campaign to inform the public of
6 the potential criminal and civil consequences of
7 carrying a firearm in the sterile area of an air-
8 port that includes actual examples of the crimi-
9 nal and civil consequences imposed on individ-
10 uals who violated such prohibition.

11 (B) PROHIBITION.—Actual examples under
12 subparagraph (A) may not include any person-
13 ally identifiable information regarding individ-
14 uals described in such subparagraph.

15 (2) ELEMENTS.—The campaign required under
16 paragraph (1) shall, at a minimum, involve—

17 (A) the use of Transportation Security Ad-
18 ministration websites, social media channels,
19 press releases, and other means of external
20 communication;

21 (B) the production of audiovisual materials
22 to be distributed via online video sharing plat-
23 forms;

24 (C) engagement with external organiza-
25 tions, including local and national organizations

1 with memberships that could benefit from infor-
2 mation regarding how to lawfully travel with a
3 firearm in checked baggage or, in the case of an
4 authorized law enforcement officer, lawfully
5 enter a sterile area with a firearm;

6 (D) engagement with press and media, in-
7 cluding, to the extent practicable, local press
8 and media in at least those cities that host air-
9 ports identified biennially pursuant to para-
10 graph (3) of subsection (m) of section 44901 of
11 title 49, United States Code, as amended by
12 section 2; and

13 (E) engagement with transportation stake-
14 holders, such as taxi services, public transpor-
15 tation systems, online platforms for ridesharing,
16 air carriers, airport operators, and law enforce-
17 ment organizations, regarding potential part-
18 nerships, including the possibility of integrating
19 into mobile applications and websites used by
20 passengers to reserve ground transportation to
21 the airport, check into flights, and perform
22 other travel-related functions warnings regard-
23 ing potential criminal and civil consequences of
24 carrying a firearm into the sterile area of an
25 airport.

1 (3) EXISTING EFFORTS.—The campaign re-
2 quired under paragraph (1) shall supplement and
3 not supplant any other related existing campaign.

4 (b) TARGETED ADVERTISING.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the
6 Transportation Security Administration may pur-
7 chase or otherwise place advertisements describing
8 the potential criminal and civil consequences of car-
9 rying a firearm in the sterile area of an airport or
10 on or about one's person or property that would be
11 accessible in flight, and actual examples of the crimi-
12 nal and civil consequences faced by individuals who
13 violated such prohibition, on websites and in publica-
14 tions (or on or in such other advertising mediums as
15 the Administrator determines appropriate) that tar-
16 get audiences seeking information concerning—

17 (A) firearms or related activities;

18 (B) travel, tourism, or related matters; and

19 (C) such other matters the Administrator
20 determines appropriate.

21 (2) PROHIBITION.—Actual examples under
22 paragraph (1) may not include any personally identi-
23 fiable information regarding individuals described in
24 such paragraph.

1 **SEC. 4. FINES.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 449 of
3 title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
4 end the following new section:

5 **“§ 44930. Minimum civil monetary penalties for cer-**
6 **tain firearm-related violations**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the
8 date of the enactment of this section, the Administrator
9 of the Transportation Security Administration shall estab-
10 lish minimum civil monetary penalty amounts for repeat
11 or egregious violations of subsection (a) of section
12 1540.111 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, relating
13 to the carriage of firearms on or in an individual’s person
14 or accessible property into the sterile area of an airport
15 or onboard an aircraft.

16 “(b) MINIMUM CIVIL MONETARY PENALTIES FOR
17 REPEAT VIOLATIONS.—The minimum civil monetary pen-
18 alty amount for a repeat violation of subsection (a) of sec-
19 tion 1540.111 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations,
20 involving a firearm shall be—

21 “(1) in the case of an individual with respect to
22 whom such a repeat violation occurs within five
23 years of the date of the final adjudication of a pre-
24 vious such violation—

25 “(A) \$10,000 for any such repeat violation
26 involving an unloaded firearm; and

1 “(B) \$12,500 for any such repeat violation
2 involving a loaded firearm or unloaded firearm
3 with accessible ammunition; and

4 “(2) in the case of an individual with respect to
5 whom such a repeat violation occurs more than five
6 years after the date of the final adjudication of a
7 previous such violation—

8 “(A) \$5,000 for any such repeat violation
9 involving an unloaded firearm; and

10 “(B) \$10,000 for any such repeat violation
11 involving a loaded firearm or unloaded firearm
12 with accessible ammunition.

13 “(c) MINIMUM CIVIL MONETARY PENALTIES FOR
14 EGREGIOUS VIOLATIONS.—The minimum civil monetary
15 penalty amount for an intentional or otherwise egregious
16 violation of subsection (a) of section 1540.111 of title 49,
17 Code of Federal Regulations, involving a firearm shall
18 be—

19 “(1) \$10,000 for any knowing violation in the
20 case of a deliberate attempt to conceal such firearm;
21 and

22 “(2) \$5,000 for any violation which the Admin-
23 istrator of the Transportation Security Administra-
24 tion determines is otherwise egregious, including if
25 the firearm at issue—

1 “(A) is known to the Administrator to—

2 “(i) not contain a serial number when
3 required by law; or

4 “(ii) have been manufactured using
5 additive layer manufacturing (commonly
6 known as ‘3-D printing’); or

7 “(B) is—

8 “(i) of a nature or type that poses a
9 greater risk to aviation security than fire-
10 arms typically identified at passenger
11 screening checkpoints; or

12 “(ii) identified with ammunition that
13 is of a nature or type that poses a greater
14 risk to aviation security than ammunition
15 typically identified at passenger screening
16 checkpoints.

17 “(d) SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.—An individual sub-
18 ject to a minimum civil monetary penalty amount pursu-
19 ant to subsection (a) may appeal such penalty amount or
20 seek a reduction in such penalty amount in the case of
21 such individual’s particular violation, including based on
22 mitigating factors (including in accordance with sub-
23 section (e)) pursuant to procedures provided for in the
24 Transportation Security Administration’s security regula-
25 tions. The Administrator of the Transportation Security

1 Administration may, if the Administrator determines such
2 is appropriate, grant such appeal or reduce such penalty
3 amount, as the case may be.

4 “(e) SELF-DISCLOSURE.—Notwithstanding any other
5 provision of this section, the Administrator of the Trans-
6 portation Security Administration may consider self-dis-
7 closure as a mitigating factor when determining the
8 amount of a civil monetary penalty if an individual, in
9 good faith, voluntarily discloses a violation of subsection
10 (a) of section 1540.111 of title 49, Code of Federal Regu-
11 lations, to the Transportation Security Administration, an
12 entity authorized to conduct screening pursuant to section
13 44920 of title 49, United States Code, a Government rep-
14 resentative, an employee or contractor of an airline or air-
15 port, or other appropriate authority, after the individual
16 is present for screening at a passenger screening check-
17 point but prior to the detection of such violation. The Ad-
18 ministrator shall inform appropriate Administration pas-
19 senger screening checkpoint personnel, entities authorized
20 to conduct screening pursuant to section 44920 of title
21 49, United States Code, Government representatives, em-
22 ployees or contractors of an airline or airport, and other
23 appropriate authorities regarding appropriate procedures
24 for handling the self-disclosure of such a violation, includ-
25 ing procedures for contacting law enforcement.

1 “(f) PAYMENT PLANS.—The Administrator of the
2 Transportation Security Administration may provide pay-
3 ment plans for payment of civil monetary penalty amounts
4 under this section for a violation of subsection (a) of sec-
5 tion 1540.111 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations,
6 in the event an individual provides documentation of hard-
7 ship.

8 “(g) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
9 tion may be interpreted as—

10 “(1) limiting the authority of the Administrator
11 of the Transportation Security Administration to
12 issue civil monetary penalty amounts that are great-
13 er than those established as minimum civil monetary
14 penalty amounts pursuant to this section;

15 “(2) limiting the authority of the Administrator
16 to establish minimum civil monetary penalty
17 amounts with respect to first-time or non-egregious
18 violations of section 1540.111 of title 49, Code of
19 Federal Regulations; or

20 “(3) instructing the Administrator to establish
21 a minimum civil monetary penalty amount with re-
22 spect to violations involving unloaded replicas of fire-
23 arms not capable of discharge.

24 “(h) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘pas-
25 senger screening checkpoint’ means the designated area

1 at each airport located in the United States at which the
2 Transportation Security Administration, or an entity au-
3 thorized by the Administration pursuant to section 44920,
4 or other comparable authority, provides for the screening
5 of passengers and carry-on baggage.”.

6 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
7 for chapter 449 of title 49, United States Code, is amend-
8 ed by inserting after the item relating to section 44929
9 the following new item:

“44930. Minimum civil monetary penalties for certain firearm-related viola-
tions.”.

10 **SEC. 5. PRECHECK ELIGIBILITY.**

11 Section 44919 of title 49, United States Code, is
12 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
13 section:

14 “(m) INELIGIBILITY OF INDIVIDUALS UNLAWFULLY
15 POSSESSING FIREARMS IN RESTRICTED AREAS.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Any unauthorized indi-
17 vidual who possesses a firearm after the individual
18 is present for screening at a passenger screening
19 checkpoint shall be ineligible for expedited security
20 screening and prohibited from participating in the
21 PreCheck Program for a period of time determined
22 by the Administrator of the Transportation Security
23 Administration in the Administrator’s sole discre-
24 tion.

1 “(2) REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION.—The
2 Administrator of the Transportation Security Ad-
3 ministration shall maintain a procedure through
4 which an individual subject to a period of ineligi-
5 bility pursuant to this subsection may petition the
6 Administrator for a reduction in the duration of
7 such period. The Administrator may, if the Adminis-
8 trator determines such is appropriate, reduce such
9 duration. Any such determination shall be in the Ad-
10 ministrator’s sole discretion.

11 “(3) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
12 ‘passenger screening checkpoint’ means the des-
13 ignated area at each airport located in the United
14 States at which the Transportation Security Admin-
15 istration, or an entity authorized by the Administra-
16 tion pursuant to section 44920, or other comparable
17 authority, provides for the screening of passengers
18 and carry-on baggage.”.

19 **SEC. 6. REPORT.**

20 Not later than one year after the date of the enact-
21 ment of this Act and biennially thereafter, the Adminis-
22 trator of the Transportation Security Administration shall
23 submit to the appropriate congressional committees a re-
24 port describing the following:

1 (1) The implementation of the signage require-
2 ment under paragraph (1) of subsection (m) of sec-
3 tion 44901 of title 49, United States Code, and the
4 implementation of the signage requirement under
5 paragraph (4) of such subsection (including a copy
6 of the list of airports required to be produced bienni-
7 ally thereunder), as such section was amended by
8 section 2.

9 (2) The public awareness activities of the Ad-
10 ministration relating to firearms, including activities
11 conducted pursuant to section 3.

12 (3) The number of violations of subsection (a)
13 of section 1540.111 of title 49, Code of Federal
14 Regulations, and any other incidents involving the
15 unauthorized carriage of a firearm at a passenger
16 screening checkpoint, including information regard-
17 ing which such violations and incidents were com-
18 mitted by individuals while receiving expedited
19 screening, during the period of time covered by each
20 such report.

21 (4) PreCheck Program revocations or denials
22 pursuant to subsection (m) of section 44919, United
23 States Code, as added by this Act, during the period
24 of time covered by each such report.

1 (5) Any new or evolving threats relating to, or
2 efforts to enhance, public area security at airports
3 as such pertains to firearms.

4 (6) Such other matters relating to firearm-re-
5 lated threats to transportation security as the Ad-
6 ministrator determines appropriate.

7 **SEC. 7. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REVIEW.**

8 Not later than two years after the date of the enact-
9 ment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United
10 States shall submit to the appropriate congressional com-
11 mittees a review of the Transportation Security Adminis-
12 tration's efforts to—

13 (1) implement the provisions of this Act and
14 the amendments made by this Act;

15 (2) deter the carriage of firearms and other
16 dangerous items at passenger screening checkpoints
17 through means other than those required by this Act
18 and such amendments; and

19 (3) enhance public area security at airports
20 against firearm-related threats.

21 **SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.**

22 In this Act:

23 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
24 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
25 mittees” means the Committee on Homeland Secu-

1 rity of the House of Representatives and the Com-
2 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of
3 the Senate.

4 (2) PASSENGER SCREENING CHECKPOINT.—

5 The term “passenger screening checkpoint” means
6 the designated area at each airport located in the
7 United States at which the Transportation Security
8 Administration, or an entity authorized by the Ad-
9 ministration pursuant to section 44920 of title 49,
10 United States Code, or other comparable authority,
11 provides for the screening of passengers and carry-
12 on baggage.

13 (3) STERILE AREA.—The term “sterile area”
14 has the meaning given such term in section 1540.5
15 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations.

