



H.R. 5270 – Airport and Airway Extension Act of 2008

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 5270 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Charles Rangel (D-NY) on February 7, 2008. It was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee and the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, but was not considered.

H.R. 5270 is expected to be considered on the floor on February 12, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 5270 provides a short-term, 4-month extension for the collection of the aviation taxes that fund the FAA as well as expenditure authority for the Airport and Airway Trust Fund. Under the bill, these authorities expire on July 1, 2008.

BACKGROUND

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is an agency within the Department of Transportation that oversees and regulates the U.S. aviation system with the task of providing the safest and most efficient system in the world.

The House passed a short-term, 3-month extension of the aviation taxes that fund the FAA by voice vote on September 24, 2007. The FY2008 Consolidated Appropriations bill (P.L. 110-161) included the latest extension for aviation taxes and fees, which lasts through February 29, 2008. The House passed a comprehensive FAA reauthorization, H.R. 2881, by a vote of 267 to 151 on September 20, 2007. The Senate Finance and Commerce Committees have approved their own versions reauthorizing FAA programs. However, the full Senate has yet to approve a comprehensive bill.

The Administration proposed a number of FAA reforms, including significant changes to FAA's current tax and fee system that would be linked more closely with usage of the U.S. aviation system. The proposal stirred a contentious debate between the commercial airline industry and general aviation.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) had not scored this legislation at the time of this publication. The CBO previously estimated that implementing a 3-month extension, [H.R. 3540](#), "would increase discretionary spending by \$3.1 billion over the 2008-2012 period."

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Shea Loper at (202) 226-2302.