



H.R. 6984 – The Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act of 2008

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 6984 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 James Oberstar (D-MN) on September 22, 2008. The resolution was referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, but was never considered.

H.R. 6984 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 23, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 6984 provides a six month extension for the collection of the aviation taxes that fund the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The bill also authorizes \$1.95 billion in expenditures for the Airport Improvement Program, as well as extends expenditures for the Airport and Airway Trust Fund through March 31, 2009.

H.R. also extends the authority for the Secretary of Transportation to limit the third-party liability of air carriers arising out of acts of terrorism through March of 2009. In addition, the bill extends the authorization for the Small Community Air Service Development Program at \$35 million for fiscal year 2009.

The bill authorizes the following amounts for the first six months of fiscal year 2009:

- \$4,516,364,500 for FAA administration operations
- \$1,360,188,750 for Air Navigation Facilities and Equipment
- \$85,507,500 for research, engineering, and development

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 Airport Improvement Program provides grants to public agencies and private entities for safety and capacity projects at public-use airports.

The Airport and Airway Trust Fund, created by the Airport and Airway Revenue Act of 1970, provides funding for the nation's aviation system through several aviation excise taxes. Funding currently comes from collections related to passenger tickets, air cargo excise taxes, passenger flight segments, and aviation fuels, among other sources.

In June 2008, the President signed the Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-253). This legislation most recently extended the collection of aviation taxes and extended expenditure authority for the Airport and Airway Trust fund through September 30, 2008.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office has not issued a cost estimate for H.R. 6984.

STAFF CONTACT

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