

Union Calendar No. 274

117TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 6270

[Report No. 117–362]

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

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

JUNE 13, 2022

Additional sponsors: Mr. STANTON, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. CARSON, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. KAHELE, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. BACON, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. KATKO, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. DELBENE, Ms. PORTER, Ms. STRICKLAND, Ms. MACE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. COHEN

JUNE 13, 2022

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on December 14, 2021]

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 **SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “Advanced Aviation In-*
 5 *frastructure Modernization Act” or the “AAIM Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY INFRASTRUCTURE PILOT**
 7 **PROGRAM.**

8 *(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after*
 9 *the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall estab-*
 10 *lish a pilot program to provide grants that—*

11 *(1) assist an eligible entity to plan for the devel-*
 12 *opment and deployment of infrastructure necessary to*
 13 *facilitate AAM operations in the United States; and*

14 *(2) make funding available for costs directly re-*
 15 *lated to construction of public-use vertiports or associ-*
 16 *ated infrastructure.*

17 *(b) PLANNING GRANTS.—*

18 *(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide*
 19 *grants to eligible entities to develop comprehensive*
 20 *plans under paragraph (2) related to AAM infra-*
 21 *structure.*

22 *(2) COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.—*

23 *(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year*
 24 *after receiving a grant under this subsection, an*
 25 *eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary a*

1 *comprehensive plan in a format that may be*
2 *published on the website of the Department of*
3 *Transportation.*

4 (B) *PLAN CONTENTS.—The Secretary shall*
5 *establish content requirements for comprehensive*
6 *plans submitted under this subsection, which*
7 *may include the following:*

8 (i) *The identification of planned or po-*
9 *tential public-use or private-use vertiport*
10 *locations.*

11 (ii) *A description of infrastructure nec-*
12 *essary to support AAM operations.*

13 (iii) *A description of types of planned*
14 *or potential AAM operations.*

15 (iv) *The identification of physical and*
16 *digital infrastructure required to meet the*
17 *standards for vertiport design and perform-*
18 *ance characteristics established by the Fed-*
19 *eral Aviation Administration (as in effect*
20 *on the date on which the Secretary issues a*
21 *grant to an eligible entity), including modi-*
22 *fications to existing infrastructure and*
23 *ground sensors, electric charging and other*
24 *fueling requirements, electric utility re-*
25 *quirements, wireless and cybersecurity re-*

quirements, and other necessary hardware or software.

(v) *A description of potential environmental effects of planned construction or siting of public-use vertiports, including efforts to reduce the adverse effects of potential aviation noise.*

(vi) *A description of how planned public-use or private-use vertiport locations, including new or repurposed infrastructure, fit into existing State and local transportation systems and networks, including—*

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

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

(III) any potential conflicts to existing aviation infrastructure that may arise from the proposed location of the vertiport.

1 (vii) *A description of how public-use*
2 *vertiport planning will be incorporated in*
3 *State or metropolitan planning documents.*

4 (viii) *The identification of the process*
5 *an eligible entity will undertake to ensure*
6 *an adequate level of community engagement*
7 *for planned public-use vertiport locations*
8 *and planned or anticipated AAM oper-*
9 *ations, including engagement with under-*
10 *served communities, individuals with dis-*
11 *abilities, and racial and ethnic minorities,*
12 *to address equity of access and other prior-*
13 *ities.*

14 (ix) *The identification of the actions*
15 *necessary for an eligible entity to undertake*
16 *the construction of public-use vertiports,*
17 *such as planning studies to assess existing*
18 *infrastructure, environmental studies, stud-*
19 *ies of projected economic benefit to the com-*
20 *munity, lease or acquisition of an easement*
21 *or land for new infrastructure, and activi-*
22 *ties related to other capital costs.*

23 (x) *The identification of State, local, or*
24 *private sources of funding an eligible entity*

1 *may use to assist with the construction or*
2 *operation of a public-use vertiport.*

3 (3) *APPLICATION.—To apply for a grant under*
4 *this subsection, an eligible entity shall provide to the*
5 *Secretary an application in such form, at such time,*
6 *and containing such information as the Secretary*
7 *may require.*

8 (4) *SELECTION.—*

9 (A) *IN GENERAL.—In awarding grants*
10 *under this subsection, the Secretary shall con-*
11 *sider the following:*

12 (i) *Geographic diversity.*

13 (ii) *The need for comprehensive plans*
14 *that—*

15 (I) *ensure the safe integration of*
16 *AAM operations into the National Air-*
17 *space System;*

18 (II) *improve transportation safe-*
19 *ty, connectivity, access, and equity in*
20 *both rural and urban regions in the*
21 *United States;*

22 (III) *leverage existing public*
23 *transportation systems and intermodal*
24 *and multimodal facilities;*

1 (IV) *reduce surface congestion and*
2 *the environmental impacts of transpor-*
3 *tation;*

4 (V) *grow the economy and create*
5 *jobs in the United States; and*

6 (VI) *encourage community en-*
7 *gagement when planning for AAM re-*
8 *lated infrastructure.*

9 (B) *PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall*
10 *prioritize awarding grants under this subsection*
11 *to eligible entities that partner with commercial*
12 *AAM entities, institutions of higher education,*
13 *research institutions, or other relevant stake-*
14 *holders to develop and prepare a comprehensive*
15 *plan.*

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

19 (6) *BRIEFING.—*

20 (A) *IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days*
21 *after the first comprehensive plan is submitted*
22 *under paragraph (2), and every 180 days there-*
23 *after, the Secretary shall provide a briefing to*
24 *the appropriate committees of Congress on the*

1 *comprehensive plans submitted to the Secretary*
2 *under such paragraph.*

3 (B) *CONTENTS.—The briefing required*
4 *under subparagraph (A) shall include—*

5 *(i) an evaluation of all planned or pro-*
6 *posed public-use vertiport locations included*
7 *in the comprehensive plans submitted under*
8 *paragraph (2) and how such planned or*
9 *proposed public-use vertiport locations may*
10 *fit into the overall United States transpor-*
11 *tation system and network; and*

12 *(ii) a description of lessons or best*
13 *practices learned through the review of com-*
14 *prehensive plans and how the Secretary will*
15 *incorporate any such lessons or best prac-*
16 *tices into Federal standards or guidance for*
17 *the design and operation of AAM infra-*
18 *structure and facilities.*

19 (c) *CONSTRUCTION GRANTS.—*

20 (1) *IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award*
21 *grants to covered recipients to carry out construction*
22 *activities described under paragraph (2).*

23 (2) *ELIGIBLE USES.—A covered recipient may*
24 *use grant funds awarded under this subsection for de-*
25 *sign, bidding, and environmental study activities,*

1 *and other capital costs, as the Secretary determines*
 2 *appropriate, directly related to the construction of a*
 3 *public-use vertiport or associated infrastructure pur-*
 4 *suant to the comprehensive plan submitted by such*
 5 *covered recipient.*

6 (3) *REQUIREMENTS.—The requirements of sub-*
 7 *sections (b) and (c) of section 47112 of title 49,*
 8 *United States Code, and section 50101 of such title,*
 9 *shall apply to a grant awarded under this subsection.*

10 (4) *LIMITATION.—The Secretary may not award*
 11 *a grant under this subsection—*

12 (A) *for the acquisition, conversion, or retro-*
 13 *fitting of AAM aircraft; or*

14 (B) *for the construction of private-use*
 15 *vertiports or associated infrastructure.*

16 (5) *GRANT TIMING.—The Secretary may not*
 17 *issue a grant under this subsection until—*

18 (A) *the Administrator of the Federal Avia-*
 19 *tion Administration has—*

20 (i) *certified 2 or more models of air-*
 21 *craft designed to provide AAM transpor-*
 22 *tation under part 23, 25, 27, or 29 of title*
 23 *14, Code of Federal Regulations; and*

24 (ii) *published an advisory circular*
 25 *containing appropriate standards for*

1 *vertiport design and performance character-*
2 *istics and vertiport siting.*

3 *(B) the Secretary has—*

4 *(i) determined that 2 or more AAM op-*
5 *erators hold certificates under part 119 of*
6 *title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, for*
7 *such operators to perform air carrier oper-*
8 *ations covered under part 135 of such title;*
9 *and*

10 *(ii) issued, to 2 or more air carriers*
11 *formed to provide AAM transportation, cer-*
12 *tificates under chapter 411 of title 49,*
13 *United States Code.*

14 *(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—*

15 *(1) AUTHORIZATION.—There are authorized to be*
16 *appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this sec-*
17 *tion \$12,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 and*
18 *2023, to remain available until expended.*

19 *(2) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Of the*
20 *amounts made available under paragraph (1), the*
21 *Secretary may retain up to 1 percent for personnel,*
22 *contracting, and other costs to establish and admin-*
23 *ister the pilot program under this section.*

24 *(e) TERMINATION.—*

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

3 (2) *CONTINUED FUNDING.*—Funds authorized to
4 be appropriated pursuant to subsection (d) may be
5 expended after September 30, 2023—

6 (A) for grants awarded prior to September
7 30, 2023; and

8 (B) for administrative expenses.

9 (f) *DEFINITIONS.*—In this Act:

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

18 (2) *APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.*—
19 The term “appropriate committees of Congress”
20 means the Committee on Transportation and Infra-
21 structure of the House of Representatives and the
22 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-
23 tation of the Senate.

24 (3) *COMMERCIAL AAM ENTITIES.*—The term
25 “commercial AAM entities” means—

1 (A) *manufacturers of aircraft, avionics,*
 2 *propulsion systems, and air traffic management*
 3 *systems related to AAM; and*

4 (B) *intended commercial operators of AAM*
 5 *aircraft and systems.*

6 (4) *COVERED RECIPIENT.—The term “covered re-*
 7 *ipient” means the recipient of a grant under sub-*
 8 *section (b) who has submitted a comprehensive*
 9 *plan—*

10 (A) *that has been reviewed by the Secretary*
 11 *pursuant to subsection (b); and*

12 (B) *that the Secretary has determined con-*
 13 *tains proposed projects that comply with the*
 14 *standards for vertiport design, performance, and*
 15 *siting characteristics described in a published*
 16 *advisory circular.*

17 (5) *ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-*
 18 *ty” means—*

19 (A) *a State, local, or Tribal government, in-*
 20 *cluding a political subdivision thereof;*

21 (B) *an airport sponsor;*

22 (C) *a transit agency;*

23 (D) *a port authority;*

24 (E) *a metropolitan planning organization;*

25 *or*

1 (F) any combination or consortium of the
2 entities described in subparagraphs (A) through
3 (E).

4 (6) *METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION.*—
5 The term “metropolitan planning organization” has
6 the meaning given such term in section 5303(b) of
7 title 49, United States Code.

8 (7) *PUBLIC-USE VERTIPORT.*—The term “public-
9 use vertiport” means a designated location used or in-
10 tended to be used for public purposes and to support
11 AAM operations, including the landing, takeoff, load-
12 ing, taxiing, parking, and storage of vertical take-off
13 and landing aircraft.

14 (8) *STATE.*—The term “State” means a State of
15 the United States, the District of Columbia, Puerto
16 Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the North-
17 ern Mariana Islands, and Guam.

18 (9) *SECRETARY.*—The term “Secretary” means
19 the Secretary of Transportation.

20 (10) *VERTICAL TAKE-OFF AND LANDING AIR-*
21 *CRAFT.*—The term “vertical take-off and landing air-
22 craft” means an aircraft with lift/thrust units used to
23 generate powered lift and control and with 2 or more
24 lift/thrust units used to provide lift during vertical
25 take-off or landing.

1 **SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

2 *Nothing in this Act may be construed as conferring*
3 *upon any person, State, local, or Tribal government the au-*
4 *thority to determine the safety of any AAM operation or*
5 *the feasibility of simultaneous operations by AAM and con-*
6 *ventional aircraft within any given area of the National*
7 *Airspace System.*

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