

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5851

Making continuing appropriations for essential Federal Aviation Administration and Transportation Security Administration pay and operations in the event of a Federal Government shutdown, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 28, 2025

Mr. JAMES introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations

A BILL

Making continuing appropriations for essential Federal Aviation Administration and Transportation Security Administration pay and operations in the event of a Federal Government shutdown, 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 “Keep America Flying
5 Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR AIR TRAFFIC**
2 **CONTROLLERS AND TRANSPORTATION SECU-**
3 **RITY PERSONNEL.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are hereby appropriated for
5 fiscal year 2026, out of any money in the Treasury not
6 otherwise appropriated, for the period beginning October
7 1, 2025, during which interim or full-year appropriations
8 for fiscal year 2026 are not in effect—

9 (1) such sums as are necessary to provide
10 standard rates of pay, allowances, pay differentials,
11 benefits, and other payments otherwise payable on a
12 regular basis to air traffic controllers and other es-
13 sential operational personnel of the Federal Aviation
14 Administration whose services are required for the
15 safe and orderly operation of the national airspace
16 system;

17 (2) such sums as are necessary to provide
18 standard rates of pay, allowances, pay differentials,
19 benefits, and other payments otherwise payable on a
20 regular basis to employees of the Transportation Se-
21 curity Administration engaged in screening oper-
22 ations, aviation security duties, or related mission-
23 support functions necessary to carry out security
24 screening under chapter 449 of title 49, United
25 States Code;

1 (3) such sums as are necessary to provide for
2 payments to contractors of the Federal Aviation Ad-
3 ministration whom the Secretary of Transportation
4 determines are providing support to the personnel
5 described in paragraph (1); and

6 (4) such sums as are necessary to provide for
7 payments to contractors of the Transportation Secu-
8 rity Administration whom the Administrator or Act-
9 ing Administrator of the Transportation Security
10 Administration determines are providing support to
11 the personnel described in paragraph (2).

12 (b) CHARGE TO FUTURE APPROPRIATIONS.—Ex-
13 penditures made pursuant to subsection (a) shall be
14 charged to the applicable appropriation, fund, or author-
15 ization whenever an Act in which such applicable appro-
16 priation, fund, or authorization is included is enacted into
17 law.

18 **SEC. 3. TERMINATION.**

19 Appropriations and funds made available and author-
20 ity granted pursuant to this Act shall be available until
21 whichever of the following first occurs:

22 (1) The enactment into law of an appropriation
23 (including a continuing appropriation) for any pur-
24 pose for which amounts are made available in sec-
25 tion 2.

1 (2) The enactment into law of the applicable
2 regular or continuing appropriations resolution or
3 other Act without any appropriation for such pur-
4 pose.

5 (3) September 30, 2026.

6 **SEC. 4. RETROACTIVE EFFECTIVE DATE.**

7 This Act shall take effect as if enacted on September
8 30, 2025.

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