

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4274

To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to transfer title to certain aircraft and related parts loaned under the Federal Excess Personal Property program to authorized users after a qualifying period of use, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 26, 2026

Mr. SHEEHY (for himself and Mr. PADILLA) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to transfer title to certain aircraft and related parts loaned under the Federal Excess Personal Property program to authorized users after a qualifying period of use, 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 “Wildfire Investment
5 and Next Generation Stewardship Act” or the “WINGS
6 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Since 1956, the Department of Agriculture
4 has operated a Federal Excess Personal Property
5 program through which the Forest Service acquires
6 excess property, primarily from the Department of
7 Defense, and loans such property to State foresters
8 for wildland and rural firefighting purposes.

9 (2) State and local firefighting agencies have
10 successfully used aircraft and related parts obtained
11 through the Federal Excess Personal Property pro-
12 gram to protect lives, property, and natural re-
13 sources for extended periods, often exceeding 10
14 years.

15 (3) After lengthy periods of use, maintenance,
16 and investment by authorized users, uncertainty re-
17 garding ownership and disposal authority can create
18 operational and planning difficulties.

19 (4) Authorizing transfer of title to aircraft and
20 serviceable aircraft parts after a qualifying period of
21 responsible use will improve asset management, re-
22 duce administrative burden, and recognize the sub-
23 stantial investment made by State and local agencies
24 in maintaining and operating such property.

25 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to author-
26 ize the Secretary of Agriculture to transfer title to certain

1 aircraft and related parts loaned under the Federal Excess
 2 Personal Property program to authorized users that have
 3 demonstrated responsible stewardship over a sustained pe-
 4 riod.

5 **SEC. 3. TRANSFER OF TITLE TO CERTAIN AIRCRAFT AND**
 6 **RELATED PARTS LOANED UNDER FEDERAL**
 7 **EXCESS PERSONAL PROPERTY PROGRAM.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) AIRCRAFT.—The term “aircraft” means
 10 any fixed wing or rotary wing aircraft, including in-
 11 stalled equipment and associated components, that is
 12 made available to an authorized user under a Fed-
 13 eral Excess Personal Property program.

14 (2) AUTHORIZED USER.—The term “authorized
 15 user” means a State, political subdivision of a State,
 16 or other entity that is eligible to receive, and has re-
 17 ceived, aircraft or serviceable aircraft parts under
 18 the Federal Excess Personal Property program.

19 (3) FEDERAL EXCESS PERSONAL PROPERTY
 20 PROGRAM.—The term “Federal Excess Personal
 21 Property program” means the program (or a suc-
 22 cessor program) administered by the Secretary
 23 under which aircraft and serviceable aircraft parts
 24 are provided to authorized users for the purpose of
 25 wildland or rural firefighting.

1 (4) GOOD STANDING.—The term “good stand-
2 ing” means, with respect to an authorized user and
3 an aircraft or serviceable aircraft part, that, as de-
4 termined by the Secretary, the authorized user—

5 (A) is, as of the date of the determination,
6 in compliance with—

7 (i) all applicable statutes, regulations,
8 and written program requirements of the
9 Department of Agriculture relating to
10 property provided under the Federal Ex-
11 cess Personal Property program; and

12 (ii) the terms and conditions of any
13 agreement or instrument under which the
14 aircraft or serviceable aircraft part was
15 made available to the authorized user;

16 (B) has timely submitted all required in-
17 ventories, reports, certifications, and other doc-
18 umentation relating to the aircraft or service-
19 able aircraft part, as determined by the Sec-
20 retary;

21 (C) has not misused, sold, leased, encum-
22 bered, transferred, or otherwise disposed of the
23 aircraft or serviceable aircraft part in violation
24 of any applicable requirement or agreement;

1 (D) has maintained accurate and current
2 inventory records of all serviceable aircraft
3 parts in the possession of the authorized user,
4 whether installed or uninstalled, in accordance
5 with requirements under the Federal Excess
6 Personal Property program; and

7 (E) is not, as of the date of the determina-
8 tion, subject to any suspension, debarment, or
9 other formal enforcement action by the Depart-
10 ment of Agriculture that relates to the aircraft,
11 the serviceable aircraft parts, or the Federal
12 Excess Personal Property program.

13 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
14 the Secretary of Agriculture.

15 (6) SERVICEABLE AIRCRAFT PART.—The term
16 “serviceable aircraft part” means any component,
17 assembly, subassembly, spare part, accessory, sup-
18 port equipment, or other item of equipment, regard-
19 less of whether it is currently installed on an air-
20 craft, that is—

21 (A) designed for use on, or in support of
22 the maintenance or operation of, an aircraft;

23 (B) made available to an authorized user
24 under a Federal Excess Personal Property pro-
25 gram administered by the Secretary; and

(C) determined by the authorized user, in accordance with applicable maintenance standards and Federal Excess Personal Property program requirements, to be—

(i) in serviceable condition; or

(ii) capable of being restored to serviceable condition through overhaul or maintenance.

(b) AUTHORITY TO TRANSFER TITLE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law governing the retention of title to property made available under the Federal Excess Personal Property program, the Secretary may transfer all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to an aircraft or serviceable aircraft part to the authorized user that has received the aircraft or serviceable aircraft part if the requirements of subsection (c) or (d), as applicable, are satisfied.

(2) EFFECT OF TRANSFER.—Upon a transfer under paragraph (1)—

(A) the United States shall have no further ownership interest in the aircraft or serviceable aircraft part; and

1 (B) the authorized user shall assume full
2 ownership of the aircraft or serviceable aircraft
3 part, subject to—

4 (i) any conditions imposed under sub-
5 section (e); and

6 (ii) any applicable Federal law, includ-
7 ing laws relating to export controls and na-
8 tional security.

9 (c) ELIGIBILITY FOR TRANSFER OF AIRCRAFT.—The
10 Secretary may approve the transfer of right, title, and in-
11 terest in and to an aircraft to an authorized user under
12 subsection (b) only if the Secretary determines that—

13 (1) the authorized user has had continuous pos-
14 session of the aircraft for not fewer than 10 years
15 beginning on the date the aircraft was first received
16 by the authorized user under the Federal Excess
17 Personal Property program, whether used for oper-
18 ational purposes or as a source of serviceable parts;

19 (2) as of the date of the determination, the au-
20 thorized user is in good standing with respect to the
21 aircraft; and

22 (3) the transfer would not be inconsistent
23 with—

24 (A) any statutory limitation or condition
25 governing the original furnishing of the aircraft

1 to the Department of Agriculture by another
2 Federal department or agency; or

3 (B) any applicable national security, export
4 control, or similar restriction, as determined by
5 the Secretary in consultation, as appropriate,
6 with the Secretary of Defense and the heads of
7 any other relevant Federal agencies.

8 (d) ELIGIBILITY FOR TRANSFER OF SERVICEABLE
9 AIRCRAFT PARTS.—The Secretary may approve the trans-
10 fer of right, title, and interest in and to a serviceable air-
11 craft part to an authorized user under subsection (b) only
12 if the Secretary determines that—

13 (1) the authorized user—

14 (A) has had continuous possession of the
15 serviceable aircraft part for not fewer than 5
16 years beginning on the date the serviceable air-
17 craft part was first received by the authorized
18 user under the Federal Excess Personal Prop-
19 erty program; or

20 (B) has had continuous possession of an
21 aircraft under the Federal Excess Personal
22 Property program for not fewer than 10 years
23 and the serviceable aircraft part was received in
24 support of that aircraft, regardless of when the
25 serviceable aircraft part was received;

1 (2) as of the date of the determination, the au-
2 thorized user is in good standing with respect to the
3 serviceable aircraft part;

4 (3) the authorized user has maintained accurate
5 and current inventory records of the serviceable air-
6 craft part in accordance with standards established
7 by the Secretary, including documentation of the
8 condition, location, and intended use of the service-
9 able aircraft part; and

10 (4) the transfer would not be inconsistent
11 with—

12 (A) any statutory limitation or condition
13 governing the original furnishing of the service-
14 able aircraft part to the Department of Agri-
15 culture by another Federal department or agen-
16 cy; or

17 (B) any applicable national security, export
18 control, or similar restriction, as determined by
19 the Secretary in consultation, as appropriate,
20 with the Secretary of Defense and the heads of
21 any other relevant Federal agencies.

22 (e) CONDITIONS ON TRANSFERS.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—As a condition of approving
24 a transfer under this section, the Secretary may re-
25 quire the authorized user to agree, in such form as

1 the Secretary may prescribe, to 1 or more of the fol-
2 lowing:

3 (A) That, for a period not to exceed 5
4 years beginning on the date of transfer, the au-
5 thorized user will continue to use any aircraft
6 transferred under this section primarily—

7 (i) for public purposes consistent with
8 the purposes of the Federal Excess Per-
9 sonal Property program, which may in-
10 clude wildland fire suppression, other
11 emergency response, public safety missions,
12 and training in support of those missions;
13 or

14 (ii) as a source of serviceable aircraft
15 parts to support other aircraft used for the
16 public purposes described in clause (i).

17 (B) That, for a period not to exceed 3
18 years beginning on the date of transfer, the au-
19 thorized user—

20 (i) will use any serviceable aircraft
21 parts transferred under this section for
22 purposes consistent with the maintenance,
23 repair, overhaul, or operational support of
24 aircraft used for the public purposes de-
25 scribed in subparagraph (A)(i); and

1 (ii) will not use any serviceable air-
2 craft parts transferred under this section
3 for commercial resale or distribution except
4 with the prior written consent of the Sec-
5 retary.

6 (C) That, for a period not to exceed 5
7 years beginning on the date of transfer, the au-
8 thorized user will not sell, lease, encumber, ex-
9 port, or otherwise dispose of the aircraft or
10 serviceable aircraft parts transferred under this
11 section except—

12 (i) with the prior written consent of
13 the Secretary; or

14 (ii) in accordance with such conditions
15 as the Secretary may establish by regula-
16 tion.

17 (D) That, for a period not to exceed 5
18 years beginning on the date of transfer, the au-
19 thorized user will maintain such records relat-
20 ing to the use and disposition of the aircraft or
21 serviceable aircraft parts, and will make such
22 records available to the Secretary upon reason-
23 able request, as the Secretary may require.

24 (2) MODIFICATION OR WAIVER.—The Secretary
25 may, on a case-by-case basis, modify or waive the

1 application, in whole or in part, of one or more con-
2 ditions imposed under paragraph (1) if the Secretary
3 determines that such modification or waiver is nec-
4 essary—

5 (A) to protect public safety;

6 (B) to comply with other applicable Fed-
7 eral law;

8 (C) because continued use of the aircraft
9 or serviceable aircraft part by the authorized
10 user is no longer practicable; or

11 (D) to facilitate appropriate maintenance,
12 overhaul, or repair activities.

13 (f) APPLICATION AND DETERMINATION.—

14 (1) APPLICATION.—An authorized user seeking
15 a transfer of an aircraft or serviceable aircraft part
16 under this section shall submit to the Secretary an
17 application at such time, in such form, and con-
18 taining such information as the Secretary may re-
19 quire, including—

20 (A) documentation of the date on which
21 the aircraft or serviceable aircraft part was first
22 received or placed into service by the authorized
23 user;

24 (B) if the application relates to one or
25 more serviceable aircraft parts, a complete and

1 current inventory of all such serviceable aircraft
2 parts for which transfer is requested, including
3 information on the condition, location, and in-
4 tended or actual use of each serviceable aircraft
5 part;

6 (C) information sufficient for the Secretary
7 to determine whether the authorized user is in
8 good standing with respect to the aircraft or
9 serviceable aircraft part; and

10 (D) any certifications or other assurances
11 required by the Secretary regarding intended
12 future use and compliance with conditions im-
13 posed under subsection (e).

14 (2) TIMELINE FOR DECISION.—Not later than
15 180 days after the date on which the Secretary re-
16 ceives a complete application under paragraph (1),
17 the Secretary shall approve or deny the application.

18 (3) DENIAL.—If the Secretary denies an appli-
19 cation submitted under paragraph (1), the Secretary
20 shall provide to the authorized user a written notifi-
21 cation of the denial that—

22 (A) states the reasons for the denial; and

23 (B) identifies, to the extent practicable,
24 any actions the authorized user may take to
25 cure the deficiencies and become eligible for a

1 future transfer with respect to that aircraft,
2 that serviceable aircraft part, or other aircraft
3 or serviceable aircraft parts.

4 (g) REGULATIONS AND GUIDANCE.—Not later than
5 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the
6 Secretary shall promulgate such regulations, or issue such
7 revisions to regulations or written guidance, as the Sec-
8 retary determines to be necessary to carry out this section,
9 including—

10 (1) objective criteria and procedures for deter-
11 mining whether an authorized user is in good stand-
12 ing;

13 (2) standards for inventory management, track-
14 ing, and reporting of serviceable aircraft parts, in-
15 cluding serviceable aircraft parts not installed on an
16 aircraft and serviceable aircraft parts that require
17 overhaul or maintenance before installation;

18 (3) standards and procedures for evaluating ap-
19 plications and making determinations under sub-
20 section (f), including verification of parts inventories
21 and condition assessments;

22 (4) model terms and conditions for agreements
23 entered into under subsection (e), with separate or
24 tailored conditions for aircraft and for serviceable
25 aircraft parts; and

1 (5) safeguards, including any necessary coordi-
2 nation with other Federal departments or agencies,
3 to ensure compliance with statutory limitations and
4 with national security, export control, and similar re-
5 quirements.

6 (h) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
7 tion shall be construed—

8 (1) to limit any other authority of the Sec-
9 retary—

10 (A) to transfer title to property;

11 (B) to reclaim property; or

12 (C) to impose conditions on the participa-
13 tion of an authorized user in the Federal Ex-
14 cess Personal Property program; or

15 (2) to affect any law applicable to the original
16 transfer of an aircraft or serviceable aircraft part to
17 the Department of Agriculture by another Federal
18 department or agency.

○