

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2603

To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to designate high threat helicopter flight areas and to provide special rules for screening of passengers and property to be transported on passenger helicopters operating to or from such areas and for helicopters flights in such areas, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 6, 2007

Mr. WEINER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to designate high threat helicopter flight areas and to provide special rules for screening of passengers and property to be transported on passenger helicopters operating to or from such areas and for helicopters flights in such areas, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “High Threat Heli-
3 copter Flight Area Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION.**

5 The Secretary of Homeland Security shall designate
6 an area in the United States that the Secretary determines
7 is an area at high risk for an attack by one or more terror-
8 ists as a high threat helicopter flight area.

9 **SEC. 3. SCREENING FOR PASSENGER HELICOPTERS DE-**
10 **PARTING HIGH THREAT FLIGHT AREAS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Secu-
12 rity shall provide the same screening of all passengers and
13 property that will be transported, from a point located in
14 an area designated as a high threat helicopter area under
15 section 2, on a passenger helicopter in the United States
16 by a person (including an air carrier) as the screening that
17 is provided for passengers and property that are carried
18 aboard a passenger aircraft operated by an air carrier
19 under section 44901 of title 49, United States Code.

20 (b) DEADLINE FOR BEGINNING.—The Secretary
21 shall begin development of a plan for acquiring and train-
22 ing personnel, and acquiring equipment, to provide the
23 screening required by subsection (a).

1 **SEC. 4. SPECIAL RULES REGARDING FLIGHTS OF HELI-**
2 **COPTERS OPERATING IN HIGH THREAT**
3 **FLIGHT AREAS.**

4 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Transportation
5 shall take such action as may be necessary to ensure
6 that—

7 (1) no passenger helicopter flies in an area des-
8 igned as a high threat flight area by the Secretary
9 of Homeland Security under section 2, except on ap-
10 proach for landing, or departure after take off, in
11 such area;

12 (2) whenever a passenger helicopter is flying in
13 such an area, the helicopter, to maximum extent
14 practicable, flies over water; and

15 (3) the pilot of a flight of any helicopter in such
16 an area remains in contact with the Federal Avia-
17 tion Administration regarding the flight path of such
18 helicopter, regardless of the altitude of such heli-
19 copter.

20 (b) **EXCEPTIONS.**—The Secretary of Transportation
21 shall except from any requirement of subsection (a) a heli-
22 copter carrying out such military, police, medical, or other
23 operations as the Secretary determines appropriate.

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