

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4492

To provide for the approval authority for National Guard flyovers, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 8, 2016

Mr. DUFFY (for himself and Mr. WALZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To provide for the approval authority for National Guard flyovers, 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 “Sound of Freedom
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL GUARD FLYOVERS OF PUBLIC EVENTS.**

7 (a) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It shall be the policy
8 of the Department of Defense that flyovers of public
9 events in support of community relations activities may

1 only be flown as part of an approved training mission at
2 no additional expense to the Federal Government.

3 (b) NATIONAL GUARD FLYOVER APPROVAL PROC-
4 ESS.—The Adjutant General of a State in which an Army
5 National Guard or Air National Guard unit is based will
6 be the approval authority for all Air National Guard and
7 Army National Guard flyovers in that State, including any
8 request for a flyover in any civilian domain at a nonavia-
9 tion related event.

10 (c) FLYOVER RECORD MAINTENANCE; REPORT.—

11 (1) RECORD MAINTENANCE.—The Secretary of
12 Defense shall keep and maintain records of flyover
13 requests and approvals in a publicly accessible data-
14 base that is updated annually.

15 (2) GAO REPORT.—Not later than one year
16 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
17 Comptroller General of the United States shall sub-
18 mit to the Committee on Armed Services of the
19 House of Representatives and the Committee on
20 Armed Services of the Senate a report on flyovers
21 and the process whereby flyover requests are made
22 and evaluated, including—

23 (A) whether there is any cost to taxpayers
24 associated with flyovers;

1 (B) whether there is any appreciable public
2 relations or recruitment value that comes from
3 flyovers; and

4 (C) the impact flyovers have to aviator
5 training and readiness.

6 (d) FLYOVER DEFINED.—In this section, the term
7 “flyover” means aviation support—

8 (1) in which a straight and level flight limited
9 to one pass by a single military aircraft, or by a sin-
10 gle formation of four or fewer military aircraft of
11 the same type, from the same military department
12 over a predetermined point on the ground at a spe-
13 cific time;

14 (2) that does not involve aerobatics or dem-
15 onstrations; and

16 (3) uses bank angles of up to 90 degrees if re-
17 quired to improve the spectator visibility of the air-
18 craft.

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