

compensation under this section only as long as—

(A) the air carrier maintains the level of enhanced essential air service;

(B) the State or local government or person agreeing to pay compensation under this section continues to pay the compensation; and

(C) the Secretary decides the compensation is necessary to maintain the service to the place.

(2) The Secretary may require the State or local government or person agreeing to pay compensation under this section to make advance payments or provide other security to ensure that timely payments are made.

(d) REVIEW.—(1) The Secretary shall review periodically the enhanced essential air service provided to each eligible place under this section.

(2) For service for which the Government pays 50 percent of the compensation, based on the review and consultation with the affected community and the State or local government or person paying the remaining 50 percent of the compensation, the Secretary shall make appropriate adjustments in the type and level of service to the place.

(3) For service for which the Government pays 100 percent of the compensation, based on the review and consultation with the State or local government submitting the proposal, the Secretary shall decide whether the service has succeeded for at least a 2-year period under the criteria prescribed under subsection (a)(3) of this section. If unsuccessful, the place is not eligible for air service or air transportation for which compensation is paid by the Secretary under this subchapter.

(e) ENDING, SUSPENDING, AND REDUCING AIR TRANSPORTATION.—An air carrier may end, suspend, or reduce air transportation to an eligible place below the level of enhanced essential air service established for that place by the Secretary under this section only after giving the Secretary, the affected community, and the State or local government or person paying compensation for that service at least 30 days' notice before ending, suspending, or reducing the service. This subsection does not relieve the carrier of an obligation under section 41734 of this title.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1148.)

#### HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
41735(a) .....	49 App.:1389(c)(1), (3)(C).	Aug. 23, 1958, Pub. L. 85-726, 72 Stat. 731, §419(c); added Oct. 24, 1978, Pub. L. 95-504, §33(a), 92 Stat. 1732; Dec. 8, 1983, Pub. L. 98-213, §10, 97 Stat. 1461; Oct. 4, 1984, Pub. L. 98-443, §9(r), 98 Stat. 1708; re-stated Dec. 30, 1987, Pub. L. 100-223, §202(a)(1), (2), (b)(1), 101 Stat. 1507, 1512.
41735(b) .....	49 App.:1389(c)(2).	
41735(c) .....	49 App.:1389(c)(5)-(7).	
41735(d) .....	49 App.:1389(c)(3)(A), (B).	
41735(e) .....	49 App.:1389(c)(4).	

In subsections (a)(2)(B)(ii) and (d)(3), the words “air service or air transportation for which compensation is

paid” are substituted for “air service for which compensation is payable” for consistency with the source provisions restated in sections 41733 and 41736 of the revised title.

In subsection (a)(3), the word “prescribe” is substituted for “establish” for consistency in the revised title.

In subsection (b), before clause (1), the words “issue a decision” are omitted as unnecessary because of the restatement.

In subsection (c)(1)(B), the words “State or local government or person agreeing to pay compensation under this section” are substituted for “government or person agreeing to pay any non-Federal share” for clarity.

In subsection (c)(2), the words “State or local government or person agreeing to pay compensation under this section” are substituted for “non-Federal payments for enhanced essential air service under this subsection” for clarity.

In subsection (d)(2), the words “For service for which the Government pays 50 percent of the compensation” are substituted for “If the enhanced essential air service approved under this subsection is to be at a 50 percent Federal share” because of the restatement. The words “the remaining 50 percent” are substituted for “the non-Federal” for clarity and consistency in this section.

In subsection (d)(3), the words “For service for which the Government pays 100 percent of the compensation” are substituted for “If the enhanced essential air service approved under this subsection is to be at a 100 percent Federal share” because of the restatement.

#### § 41736. Air transportation to noneligible places

(a) PROPOSALS AND DECISIONS.—(1) A State or local government may propose to the Secretary of Transportation that the Secretary provide compensation to an air carrier to provide air transportation to a place that is not an eligible place under this subchapter. Not later than 90 days after receiving a proposal under this section, the Secretary shall—

(A) decide whether to designate the place as eligible to receive compensation under this section; and

(B)(i) approve the proposal if the State or local government or a person is willing and able to pay 50 percent of the compensation for providing the transportation, and notify the State or local government of the approval; or

(ii) disapprove the proposal if the Secretary decides the proposal is not reasonable under paragraph (2) of this subsection, and notify the State or local government of the disapproval and the reasons for the disapproval.

(2) In deciding whether a proposal is reasonable, the Secretary shall consider, among other factors—

(A) the traffic-generating potential of the place;

(B) the cost to the United States Government of providing the proposed transportation; and

(C) the distance of the place from the closest hub airport.

(b) APPROVAL FOR CERTAIN AIR TRANSPORTATION.—Notwithstanding subsection (a)(1)(B) of this section, the Secretary shall approve a proposal under this section to compensate an air carrier for providing air transportation to a place in the 48 contiguous States or the District of Columbia and designate the place as eligible for compensation under this section if—

(1) at any time before October 23, 1978, the place was served by a carrier holding a certificate under section 401 of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958;

(2) the place is more than 50 miles from the nearest small hub airport or an eligible place;

(3) the place is more than 150 miles from the nearest hub airport; and

(4) the State or local government submitting the proposal or a person is willing and able to pay 25 percent of the cost of providing the compensated transportation.

Paragraph (4) does not apply to any community approved for service under this section during the period beginning October 1, 1991, and ending December 31, 1997.

(c) LEVEL OF AIR TRANSPORTATION.—(1) If the Secretary designates a place under subsection (a)(1) of this section as eligible for compensation under this section, the Secretary shall decide, not later than 6 months after the date of the designation, on the level of air transportation to be provided under this section. Before making a decision, the Secretary shall consider the views of any interested community, the appropriate State authority of the State in which the place is located, and the State or local government or person agreeing to pay compensation for the transportation under subsection (b)(4) of this section.

(2) After making the decision under paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Secretary shall provide notice that any air carrier that is willing to provide the level of air transportation established under paragraph (1) for a place may submit an application to provide the transportation. In selecting an applicant, the Secretary shall consider, among other factors—

(A) the factors listed in section 41733(c)(1) of this title; and

(B) the views of the State or local government or person agreeing to pay compensation for the transportation.

(d) COMPENSATION PAYMENTS.—(1) The Secretary shall pay compensation under this section when and in the way the Secretary decides is appropriate. The Secretary shall continue to pay compensation under this section only as long as—

(A) the air carrier maintains the level of air transportation established by the Secretary under subsection (c)(1) of this section;

(B) the State or local government or person agreeing to pay compensation for transportation under this section continues to pay that compensation; and

(C) the Secretary decides the compensation is necessary to maintain the transportation to the place.

(2) The Secretary may require the State or local government or person agreeing to pay compensation under this section to make advance payments or provide other security to ensure that timely payments are made.

(e) REVIEW.—The Secretary shall review periodically the level of air transportation provided under this section. Based on the review and consultation with any interested community, the appropriate State authority of the State in which the community is located, and the State

or local government or person paying compensation under this section, the Secretary may make appropriate adjustments in the level of transportation.

(f) WITHDRAWAL OF ELIGIBILITY DESIGNATIONS.—After providing notice and an opportunity for interested persons to comment, the Secretary may withdraw the designation of a place under subsection (a)(1) of this section as eligible to receive compensation under this section if the place has received air transportation under this section for at least 2 years and the Secretary decides the withdrawal would be in the public interest. The Secretary by regulation shall prescribe standards for deciding whether the withdrawal of a designation under this subsection is in the public interest. The standards shall include the factors listed in subsection (a)(2) of this section.

(g) ENDING, SUSPENDING, AND REDUCING AIR TRANSPORTATION.—An air carrier providing air transportation for compensation under this section may end, suspend, or reduce that transportation below the level of transportation established by the Secretary under this section only after giving the Secretary, the affected community, and the State or local government or person paying compensation under this section at least 30 days' notice before ending, suspending, or reducing the transportation.

(h) SUNSET.—

(1) PROPOSALS.—No proposal under subsection (a) may be accepted by the Secretary after the date of enactment of this subsection.

(2) PROGRAM.—The Secretary may not provide any compensation under this section after the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this subsection.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1149; Pub. L. 106-181, title II, §202, Apr. 5, 2000, 114 Stat. 91; Pub. L. 115-254, div. B, title IV, §453(b), Oct. 5, 2018, 132 Stat. 3348.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
41736(a) .....	49 App.:1389(d)(1), (2)(A), (C).	Aug. 23, 1958, Pub. L. 85-726, 72 Stat. 731, §419(d); added Oct. 24, 1978, Pub. L. 95-504, §33(a), 92 Stat. 1732; Dec. 8, 1983, Pub. L. 98-213, §10, 97 Stat. 1461; Oct. 4, 1984, Pub. L. 98-443, §9(r), 98 Stat. 1708; restated Dec. 30, 1987, Pub. L. 100-223, §202(a)(1), (2), (b)(1), 101 Stat. 1507, 1513.
41736(b) .....	49 App.:1389(d)(2)(B).	
41736(c)(1) ..	49 App.:1389(d)(3)(A).	
41736(c)(2) ..	49 App.:1389(d)(4).	
41736(d) .....	49 App.:1389(d)(5), (7), (8).	
41736(e) .....	49 App.:1389(d)(3)(B).	
41736(f) .....	49 App.:1389(d)(2)(D).	
41736(g) .....	49 App.:1389(d)(6).	

In subsection (a)(1), before clause (A), the words “that the Secretary provide compensation to an air carrier to provide air transportation” are substituted for “for compensated air transportation in accordance with this subsection” for clarity. In clause (B)(i), the word “transportation” is substituted for “proposed compensated air transportation” to eliminate unnecessary words.

In subsections (c)–(g), the word “transportation” is substituted for “service” for consistency with the source provisions restated in subsections (a) and (b) of this section.

In subsections (c)(1) and (e), the words “appropriate State authority” are substituted for “State agency” for clarity and consistency with the source provisions restated in section 41734(a) of the revised title.

In subsection (d), the text of 49 App.:1389(d)(5) is omitted as unnecessary because of the restatement.

In subsection (f), the word “prescribe” is substituted for “establish” for consistency in the revised title and with other titles of the United States Code.

### Editorial Notes

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

Section 401 of the Federal Aviation Act of 1958, referred to in subsec. (b)(1), is section 401 of Pub. L. 85-726, which was classified to section 1371 of former Title 49, Transportation, and was repealed by Pub. L. 103-272, §7(b), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1379, the first section of which enacted subtitles II, III, and V to X of Title 49, Transportation. For disposition of section 1371 of former Title 49, see Table at the beginning of Title 49.

The date of enactment of this subsection, referred to in subsec. (h), is the date of enactment of Pub. L. 115-254, which was approved Oct. 5, 2018.

#### AMENDMENTS

2018—Subsec. (h). Pub. L. 115-254 added subsec. (h).

2000—Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 106-181 inserted concluding provisions.

### Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries

#### EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2000 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 106-181 applicable only to fiscal years beginning after Sept. 30, 1999, see section 3 of Pub. L. 106-181, set out as a note under section 106 of this title.

### § 41737. Compensation guidelines, limitations, and claims

(a) COMPENSATION GUIDELINES.—(1) The Secretary of Transportation shall prescribe guidelines governing the rate of compensation payable under this subchapter. The guidelines shall be used to determine the reasonable amount of compensation required to ensure the continuation of air service or air transportation under this subchapter. The guidelines shall—

(A) provide for a reduction in compensation when an air carrier does not provide service or transportation agreed to be provided;

(B) consider amounts needed by an air carrier to promote public use of the service or transportation for which compensation is being paid;

(C) include expense elements based on representative costs of air carriers providing scheduled air transportation of passengers, property, and mail on aircraft of the type the Secretary decides is appropriate for providing the service or transportation for which compensation is being provided;

(D) include provisions under which the Secretary may encourage an air carrier to improve air service for which compensation is being paid under this subchapter by incorporating financial incentives in an essential air service contract based on specified performance goals, including goals related to improving on-time performance, reducing the number of flight cancellations, establishing reasonable fares (including joint fares beyond the hub airport), establishing convenient con-

nections to flights providing service beyond hub airports, and increasing marketing efforts; and

(E) include provisions under which the Secretary may execute a long-term essential air service contract to encourage an air carrier to provide air service to an eligible place if it would be in the public interest to do so.

(2) Promotional amounts described in paragraph (1)(B) of this subsection shall be a special, segregated element of the compensation provided to a carrier under this subchapter.

(b) REQUIRED FINDING.—The Secretary may pay compensation to an air carrier for providing air service or air transportation under this subchapter only if the Secretary finds the carrier is able to provide the service or transportation in a reliable way.

(c) CLAIMS.—Not later than 15 days after receiving a written claim from an air carrier for compensation under this subchapter, the Secretary shall—

(1) pay or deny the United States Government's share of a claim; and

(2) if denying the claim, notify the carrier of the denial and the reasons for the denial.

(d) AUTHORITY TO MAKE AGREEMENTS AND INCUR OBLIGATIONS.—(1) The Secretary may make agreements and incur obligations from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund established under section 9502 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (26 U.S.C. 9502) to pay compensation under this subchapter. An agreement by the Secretary under this subsection is a contractual obligation of the Government to pay the Government's share of the compensation.

(2) Not more than \$38,600,000 is available to the Secretary out of the Fund for each of the fiscal years ending September 30, 1993-1998, to incur obligations under this section. Amounts made available under this section remain available until expended.

(e) ADJUSTMENTS TO ACCOUNT FOR SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED COSTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary determines that air carriers are experiencing significantly increased costs in providing air service or air transportation for which compensation is being paid under this subchapter, the Secretary may increase the rates of compensation payable under this subchapter without regard to any agreement or requirement relating to the renegotiation of contracts or any notice requirement under section 41734.

(2) READJUSTMENT IF COSTS SUBSEQUENTLY DECLINE.—If an adjustment is made under paragraph (1), and total unit costs subsequently decrease to at least the total unit cost reflected in the compensation rate, then the Secretary may reverse the adjustment previously made under paragraph (1) without regard to any agreement or requirement relating to the renegotiation of contracts or any notice requirement under section 41734.

(3) SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED COSTS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “significantly increased costs” means a total unit cost increase (but not increases in individual unit costs) of 10 percent or more in relation to the total unit cost reflected in the compensa-