

## IMPLEMENTATION DEADLINE

Pub. L. 115-254, div. K, title I, § 1959(d)(3), Oct. 5, 2018, 132 Stat. 3600, provided that: “Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act [Oct. 5, 2018], the Administrator [of the Transportation Security Administration] shall begin implementing the requirements under paragraphs (9) through (12) of section 44917(a), United States Code, as added by this Act.”

## FEDERAL AIR MARSHALS

Pub. L. 108-458, title IV, § 4016, Dec. 17, 2004, 118 Stat. 3720, as amended by Pub. L. 115-254, div. K, title I, § 1993, Oct. 5, 2018, 132 Stat. 3646, provided that:

“(a) FEDERAL AIR MARSHAL ANONYMITY.—The Director of the Federal Air Marshal Service of the Department of Homeland Security shall continue operational initiatives to protect the anonymity of Federal air marshals.

“(b) AUTHORIZATION OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Homeland Security for the use of the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, in addition to any amounts otherwise authorized by law, for the deployment of Federal air marshals under section 44917 of title 49, United States Code, \$83,000,000 for the 3 fiscal-year period beginning with fiscal year 2005. Such sums shall remain available until expended.

“(c) FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT COUNTERTERRORISM TRAINING.—

“(1) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—The Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration and the Director of Federal Air Marshal Service of the Department of Homeland Security, shall make available, as practicable, appropriate information on in-flight counterterrorism and weapons handling procedures and tactics training to Federal law enforcement officers who fly while in possession of a firearm.

“(2) IDENTIFICATION OF FRAUDULENT DOCUMENTS.—The Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration and the Director of Federal Air Marshal Service of the Department of Homeland Security shall ensure that Transportation Security Administration screeners and Federal air marshals receive training in identifying fraudulent identification documents, including fraudulent or expired visas and passports. Such training shall also be made available to other Federal law enforcement agencies and local law enforcement agencies located in a State that borders Canada or Mexico.”

**§ 44918. Crew training**

(a) BASIC SECURITY TRAINING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each air carrier providing scheduled passenger air transportation shall carry out a training program for flight and cabin crew members to prepare the crew members for potential threat conditions and unruly passenger behavior.

(2) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—An air carrier training program under this subsection shall include, at a minimum, elements that address each of the following:

(A) Recognize suspicious behavior and activities and determine the seriousness of any occurrence of such behavior and activities.

(B) Crew communication and coordination.

(C) The proper commands to give passengers and attackers.

(D) Appropriate responses to defend oneself.

(E) Use of protective devices assigned to crew members (to the extent such devices are required by the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration or the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration).

(F) Psychology of terrorists to cope with hijacker behavior and passenger responses.

(G) Situational training exercises regarding various threat conditions.

(H) De-escalation training based on recommendations issued by the Air Carrier Training Aviation Rulemaking Committee.

(I) Methods to subdue and restrain an active attacker.

(J) The proper conduct of a cabin search, including explosive device recognition.

(K) Any other subject matter considered appropriate by the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration.

(3) APPROVAL.—An air carrier training program under this subsection shall be subject to approval by the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration.

(4) MINIMUM STANDARDS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration, in consultation with the Federal Air Marshal Service and the Aviation Security Advisory Committee, shall establish minimum standards for—

(A) the training provided under this subsection and any for recurrent training; and

(B) the individuals or entities providing such training.

(5) EXISTING PROGRAMS.—Notwithstanding paragraphs (3) and (4), any training program of an air carrier to prepare flight and cabin crew members for potential threat conditions that was approved by the Administrator or the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration before December 12, 2003, may continue in effect until disapproved or ordered modified by the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration.

(6) MONITORING.—The Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration, in consultation with the Administrator and the Federal Air Marshal Service, shall monitor air carrier training programs under this subsection and shall periodically review an air carrier’s training program to ensure that the program is adequately preparing crew members for potential threat conditions based on changes in the potential or actual threat conditions. In determining when an air carrier’s training program should be reviewed under this paragraph, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall consider complaints from crew members. The Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall ensure that employees responsible for monitoring the training programs have the necessary resources and knowledge, including self-defense training expertise and experience.

(7) UPDATES.—The Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration, in consultation with the Administrator, shall order air carriers to modify training programs under this subsection to reflect new or different security threats.

(b) ADVANCED SELF-DEFENSE TRAINING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall

develop and provide a voluntary training program for flight and cabin crew members of air carriers providing scheduled passenger air transportation.

(2) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—The training program under this subsection shall include both classroom and effective hands-on training in the following elements of self-defense:

(A) Deterring a passenger who might present a threat.

(B) Advanced control, striking, and restraint techniques.

(C) Training to defend oneself against edged or contact weapons.

(D) Methods to subdue and restrain an attacker.

(E) Use of available items aboard the aircraft for self-defense.

(F) Appropriate and effective responses to defend oneself, including the use of force against an attacker.

(G) Any other element of training that the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration considers appropriate.

(3) PARTICIPATION NOT REQUIRED.—A crew member shall not be required to participate in the training program under this subsection.

(4) COMPENSATION.—Except as provided in paragraph (8), neither the Federal Government nor an air carrier shall be required to compensate a crew member for participating in the training program under this subsection.

(5) FEES.—A crew member shall not be required to pay a fee for the training program under this subsection.

(6) CONSULTATION.—In developing the training program under this subsection, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall consult with law enforcement personnel and security experts who have expertise in self-defense training, terrorism experts, representatives of air carriers, the director of self-defense training in the Federal Air Marshal Service, flight attendants, labor organizations representing flight attendants, and educational institutions offering law enforcement training programs.

(7) DESIGNATION OF TSA OFFICIAL.—The Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall designate an official in the Transportation Security Administration to be responsible for implementing the training program under this subsection. The official shall consult with air carriers and labor organizations representing crew members before implementing the program to ensure that it is appropriate for situations that may arise on board an aircraft during a flight.

(8) AIR CARRIER ACCOMMODATION.—An air carrier with a crew member participating in the training program under this subsection shall provide a process through which each such crew member may obtain reasonable accommodations.

(c) LIMITATION.—Actions by crew members under this section shall be subject to the provisions of section 44903(k).

(Added Pub. L. 107–71, title I, §107(a), Nov. 19, 2001, 115 Stat. 610; amended Pub. L. 107–296, title XIV, §1403(a), Nov. 25, 2002, 116 Stat. 2305; Pub. L.

108–176, title VI, § 603, Dec. 12, 2003, 117 Stat. 2563; Pub. L. 115–254, div. K, title I, §1991(d)(16), Oct. 5, 2018, 132 Stat. 3635; Pub. L. 118–63, title IV, §427, May 16, 2024, 138 Stat. 1169.)

### Editorial Notes

#### REFERENCES IN TEXT

The date of enactment of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024, referred to in subsec. (a)(4), is the date of enactment of Pub. L. 118–63, which was approved May 16, 2024.

#### AMENDMENTS

2024—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 118–63, § 427(1)(A), inserted “and unruly passenger behavior” before period at end.

Subsec. (a)(2)(A). Pub. L. 118–63, § 427(1)(B)(i), added subpar. (A) and struck out former subpar. (A) which read as follows: “Recognizing suspicious activities and determining the seriousness of any occurrence.”

Subsec. (a)(2)(H). Pub. L. 118–63, § 427(1)(B)(ii), added subpar. (H) and struck out former subpar. (H) which read as follows: “Flight deck procedures or aircraft maneuvers to defend the aircraft and cabin crew responses to such procedures and maneuvers.”

Subsec. (a)(2)(I) to (K). Pub. L. 118–63, § 427(1)(B)(iii), (iv), added subpar. (I) and redesignated former subpars. (I) and (J) as (J) and (K), respectively.

Subsec. (a)(4). Pub. L. 118–63, § 427(1)(C), added par. (4) and struck out former par. (4). Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “The Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration may establish minimum standards for the training provided under this subsection and for recurrent training.”

Subsec. (a)(6). Pub. L. 118–63, § 427(1)(D), inserted “and the Federal Air Marshal Service” after “consultation with the Administrator”, substituted “and shall periodically” for “and periodically shall”, and inserted “based on changes in the potential or actual threat conditions” before period at end of first sentence and “, including self-defense training expertise and experience” before period at end of third sentence.

Subsec. (b)(4). Pub. L. 118–63, § 427(2)(A), substituted “Except as provided in paragraph (8), neither” for “Neither”.

Subsec. (b)(8). Pub. L. 118–63, § 427(2)(B), added par. (8). 2018—Pub. L. 115–254, §1991(d)(16)(C), substituted “Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration” for “Under Secretary” wherever appearing.

Subsec. (a)(2)(E). Pub. L. 115–254, §1991(d)(16)(A)(i), substituted “Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration” for “Under Secretary for Border and Transportation Security of the Department of Homeland Security”.

Subsec. (a)(4). Pub. L. 115–254, §1991(d)(16)(A)(ii), substituted “The” for “Not later than one year after the date of enactment of the Vision 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act, the”.

Subsec. (a)(5). Pub. L. 115–254, §1991(d)(16)(A)(iii), substituted “December 12, 2003,” for “the date of enactment of the Vision 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act”.

Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 115–254, §1991(d)(16)(B)(i), substituted “The” for “Not later than one year after the date of enactment of the Vision 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act, the”.

Subsec. (b)(6). Pub. L. 115–254, §1991(d)(16)(B)(ii), substituted “Federal Air Marshal Service” for “Federal Air Marshals Service”.

2003—Pub. L. 108–176 reenacted section catchline without change and amended text generally. Prior to amendment, text consisted of subsecs. (a) to (e) relating to development of detailed guidance for a scheduled passenger air carrier flight and cabin crew training program to prepare crew members for potential threat conditions.

2002—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 107–296 designated existing provisions as par. (1), inserted heading, substituted “The Under Secretary” for “The Administrator”, added pars. (2) and (3), and realigned margins.

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2003 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 108-176 applicable only to fiscal years beginning after Sept. 30, 2003, except as otherwise specifically provided, see section 3 of Pub. L. 108-176, set out as a note under section 106 of this title.

## EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2002 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 107-296 effective 60 days after Nov. 25, 2002, see section 4 of Pub. L. 107-296, set out as an Effective Date note under section 101 of Title 6, Domestic Security.

## CREW MEMBER SELF-DEFENSE TRAINING

Pub. L. 115-254, div. K, title I, §1960, Oct. 5, 2018, 132 Stat. 3600, provided that: “The Administrator [of the Transportation Security Administration], in consultation with the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, shall continue to carry out and encourage increased participation by air carrier employees in the voluntary self-defense training program under section 44918(b) of title 49, United States Code.”

**§ 44919. PreCheck Program**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall continue to administer the PreCheck Program in accordance with section 109(a)(3) of the Aviation and Transportation Security Act (49 U.S.C. 114 note).

(b) **EXPANSION.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the TSA Modernization Act, the Administrator shall enter into an agreement, using other transaction authority under section 114(m) of this title, with at least 2 private sector entities to increase the methods and capabilities available for the public to enroll in the PreCheck Program.

(c) **MINIMUM CAPABILITY REQUIREMENTS.**—At least 1 agreement under subsection (b) shall include the following capabilities:

(1) Start-to-finish secure online or mobile enrollment capability.

(2) Vetting of an applicant by means other than biometrics, such as a risk assessment, if—

(A) such means—

(i) are evaluated and certified by the Secretary of Homeland Security;

(ii) meet the definition of a qualified anti-terrorism technology under section 865 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 444); and

(iii) are determined by the Administrator to provide a risk assessment that is as effective as a fingerprint-based criminal history records check conducted through the Federal Bureau of Investigation with respect to identifying individuals who are not qualified to participate in the PreCheck Program due to disqualifying criminal history; and

(B) with regard to private sector risk assessments, the Secretary has certified that reasonable procedures are in place with regard to the accuracy, relevancy, and proper utilization of information employed in such risk assessments.

(d) **ADDITIONAL CAPABILITY REQUIREMENTS.**—At least 1 agreement under subsection (b) shall include the following capabilities:

(1) Start-to-finish secure online or mobile enrollment capability.

(2) Vetting of an applicant by means of biometrics if the collection—

(A) is comparable with the appropriate and applicable standards developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology;

(B) protects privacy and data security, including that any personally identifiable information is collected, retained, used, and shared in a manner consistent with section 552a of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as “Privacy Act of 1974”), and with agency regulations;

(C) is evaluated and certified by the Secretary of Homeland Security; and

(D) is determined by the Administrator to provide a risk assessment that is as effective as a fingerprint-based criminal history records check conducted through the Federal Bureau of Investigation with respect to identifying individuals who are not qualified to participate in the PreCheck Program due to disqualifying criminal history.

(e) **TARGET ENROLLMENT.**—Subject to subsections (b), (c), and (d), the Administrator shall take actions to expand the total number of individuals enrolled in the PreCheck Program as follows:

(1) 7,000,000 passengers before October 1, 2019.

(2) 10,000,000 passengers before October 1, 2020.

(3) 15,000,000 passengers before October 1, 2021.

(f) **MARKETING OF PRECHECK PROGRAM.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of the TSA Modernization Act, the Administrator shall—

(1) enter into at least 2 agreements, using other transaction authority under section 114(m) of this title, to market the PreCheck Program; and

(2) implement a long-term strategy for partnering with the private sector to encourage enrollment in such program.

(g) **IDENTITY VERIFICATION ENHANCEMENT.**—The Administrator shall—

(1) coordinate with the heads of appropriate components of the Department to leverage Department-held data and technologies to verify the identity and citizenship of individuals enrolling in the PreCheck Program;

(2) partner with the private sector to use biometrics and authentication standards, such as relevant standards developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology, to facilitate enrollment in the program; and

(3) consider leveraging the existing resources and abilities of airports to collect fingerprints for use in background checks to expedite identity verification.

(h) **PRECHECK PROGRAM LANES OPERATION.**—The Administrator shall—

(1) ensure that PreCheck Program screening lanes are open and available during peak and high-volume travel times at appropriate airports to individuals enrolled in the PreCheck Program; and