

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2440

To amend title 49, United States Code, to improve airport security.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 13, 2000

Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. GORTON, Mr. INOUE, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, and Mr. BRYAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, to improve airport security.

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 “Airport Security Im-

5 provement Act of 2000”.

6 **SEC. 2. CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS.**

7 (a) EXPANSION OF COVERAGE.—Section 44936(a)(1)

8 of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

1 (1) by striking “check in any case described in
 2 subparagraph (C))” in subparagraph (B) and insert-
 3 ing “check”;

4 (2) by striking subparagraph (C);

5 (3) by striking “check under subparagraph
 6 (C),” in subparagraph (D) and inserting “check,”.

7 (b) CHECKS TO BE MADE EXPEDITIOUSLY.—Section
 8 44936(a) of that title is amended by adding at the end
 9 the following:

10 “(4) The Administrator shall provide by regula-
 11 tion that criminal background checks under this sub-
 12 section are to be done expeditiously.”.

13 **SEC. 3. IMPROVED TRAINING.**

14 (a) COMPLETION OF UNIFORM PERFORMANCE
 15 STANDARDS FOR SCREENER TRAINING.—The Adminis-
 16 trator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall com-
 17 plete the development of uniform performance standards
 18 for providing security screening services, required by sec-
 19 tion 302 of the Federal Aviation Reauthorization Act of
 20 1996, by September 30, 2000.

21 (b) MINIMUM INSTRUCTIONAL STANDARDS FOR
 22 SCREENERS.—Section 44935 of title 49, United States
 23 Code, is amended by adding at the end thereof the fol-
 24 lowing:

1 “(e) TRAINING STANDARDS FOR SCREENERS.—The
 2 Administrator shall prescribe minimum standards for
 3 training security screeners that include at least 40 hours
 4 of classroom instruction and at least 40 hours of practical
 5 training before an individual is qualified to provide secu-
 6 rity screening services at an airport regulated under this
 7 subchapter.”.

8 (c) COMPUTER-BASED TRAINING FACILITIES.—Sec-
 9 tion 44935 of title 49, United States Code, as amended
 10 by subsection (b) is further amended by adding at the end
 11 thereof the following:

12 “(f) ACCESSIBILITY OF COMPUTER-BASED TRAINING
 13 FACILITIES.—The Administrator shall by regulation re-
 14 quire that computer-based training facilities intended for
 15 use at a hub airport (as defined in section 41731) be con-
 16 veniently located for that airport and easily accessible.”.

17 **SEC. 4. IMPROVING SECURED-AREA ACCESS CONTROL.**

18 Section 44904 of title 49, United States Code, is
 19 amended by adding at the end thereof the following:

20 “(d) IMPROVEMENT OF SECURED-AREA ACCESS
 21 CONTROL.—

22 “(1) ENFORCEMENT.—The Administrator shall
 23 enforce compliance with airport access control re-
 24 quirements, including—

1 “(A) suspending, or requiring the suspen-
2 sion of, employees who fail to comply with those
3 requirements, with or without pay, for such pe-
4 riods of time as the Administrator may deter-
5 mine appropriate; and

6 “(B) the imposition of penalties provided
7 for by section 46301.

8 “(2) IMPROVEMENTS.—The Administrator
9 shall—

10 “(A) work with airport operators and air
11 carriers to implement and strengthen existing
12 controls to eliminate access control weaknesses
13 by September 30, 2000;

14 “(B) require airport operators and air car-
15 riers to develop and implement comprehensive
16 and recurring training programs that teach em-
17 ployees their role in airport security, the impor-
18 tance of their participation, how their perform-
19 ance will be evaluated, and what action will be
20 taken if they fail to perform;

21 “(C) require airport operators and air
22 carriers—

23 “(i) to develop and implement pro-
24 grams that foster and reward compliance
25 with access control requirements, and dis-

1 courage and penalize noncompliance in ac-
2 cordance with guidelines issued by the Ad-
3 ministrator to measure employee compli-
4 ance; and

5 “(ii) to enforce individual compliance
6 requirements under Administration over-
7 sight;

8 “(D) assess and test for compliance with
9 access control requirements, report findings,
10 and assess penalties or take other appropriate
11 enforcement actions when noncompliance is
12 found;

13 “(E) improve and better administer the
14 Administration security database to ensure its
15 efficiency, reliability, and usefulness for identi-
16 fication of systemic problems and allocation of
17 resources;

18 “(F) improve the execution of the Adminis-
19 tration’s quality control program by September
20 30, 2000; and

21 “(G) require airport operators and air car-
22 riers to strengthen access control points in se-
23 cured areas (including air traffic control oper-

1 ations areas) to ensure the security of pas-
2 sengers and aircraft by September 30, 2000.”.

○