

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 550

To amend title 49, United States Code, to require the deployment of law enforcement personnel at airport screening locations at very large airports, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 13, 2017

Mr. ENGEL (for himself, Mr. DONOVAN, Mr. ZELDIN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. SWALWELL of California, Ms. MENG, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. KING of New York, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, and Mr. PASCRELL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, to require the deployment of law enforcement personnel at airport screening locations at very large airports, 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 “Checkpoint Safety Act
5 of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEPLOYMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL**
2 **AT AIRPORT SCREENING LOCATIONS AT**
3 **VERY LARGE AIRPORTS.**

4 Section 44901 of title 49, United States Code, is
5 amended—

6 (1) by striking “Under Secretary of Transpor-
7 tation for Security” each place it appears and insert-
8 ing “Administrator of the Transportation Security
9 Administration”;

10 (2) by striking “Under Secretary” each place it
11 appears and inserting “Administrator”; and

12 (3) in subsection (h), by amending paragraph
13 (2) to read as follows:

14 “(2) MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Except at airports re-
16 quired to enter into agreements under sub-
17 section (c), the Administrator shall order the
18 deployment of at least one law enforcement offi-
19 cer authorized to carry firearms within 300 feet
20 of each airport security screening location and
21 within the terminal during operating hours at
22 each airport at which the number of annual
23 enplanements for the most recent calendar year
24 for which data are available is 8 million or more
25 or the number of international enplanements is
26 1 million or more. The Administrator shall

1 order the deployment of additional law enforce-
2 ment officers authorized to carry firearms at
3 such airports if the Administrator determines
4 that such additional deployment is necessary to
5 ensure airport security.

6 “(B) WAIVER.—The Administrator may
7 waive the application of all or part of the re-
8 quirements of subparagraph (A) only if the rel-
9 evant law enforcement agency with jurisdiction
10 over an airport described in such subparagraph
11 certifies in a written application to the Adminis-
12 trator that adherence to all or part of such re-
13 quirements would—

14 “(i) make provision of adequate secu-
15 rity for such airport impossible; and

16 “(ii) cause extreme hardship to such
17 law enforcement agency that would se-
18 verely impair its ability to perform its du-
19 ties.”.

20 **SEC. 3. LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE IN FEDERAL AIR-**
21 **PORT SECURITY.**

22 Section 44903 of title 49, United States Code, is
23 amended—

24 (1) by striking “Under Secretary of Transpor-
25 tation for Security” each place it appears and insert-

1 ing “Administrator of the Transportation Security
2 Administration”;

3 (2) by striking “Under Secretary” each place it
4 appears and inserting “Administrator”;

5 (3) in subsection (b), in the matter preceding
6 paragraph (1), by striking “passengers” and insert-
7 ing “persons”; and

8 (4) in subsection (c)(1)—

9 (A) in the first sentence, as amended by
10 paragraph (2)—

11 (i) by striking “The Administrator”
12 and inserting “(A) The Administrator”;
13 and

14 (ii) by striking “passengers” and in-
15 serting “all persons and property”; and

16 (B) by adding at the end the following new
17 subparagraph:

18 “(B) Any air transportation security program estab-
19 lished pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall be adequate to
20 ensure—

21 “(i) close cooperation between all relevant par-
22 ties in ensuring airport security;

23 “(ii) high training standards for all security
24 and law enforcement personnel;

1 “(iii) prompt notification of and law enforce-
2 ment response to any security incidents which may
3 arise at the airport, including detention of persons
4 who may attempt to evade transportation security
5 screening; and

6 “(iv) multiple means for Transportation Secu-
7 rity Officers or members of the public to request
8 prompt law enforcement assistance in the airport.”.

9 **SEC. 4. STATIONING OF DEPUTIZED LAW ENFORCEMENT**
10 **OFFICERS.**

11 Section 44922 of title 49, United States Code, is
12 amended—

13 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “Under Sec-
14 retary of Transportation for Security” and inserting
15 “Administrator of the Transportation Security Ad-
16 ministration”;

17 (2) by striking “Under Secretary” each place it
18 appears and inserting “Administrator”; and

19 (3) by striking subsection (f).

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