

“(iii) MAXIMUM USE OF EXPLOSIVE DETECTION EQUIPMENT.—In prescribing the minimum number of bags to be examined under clause (i), the Administrator shall seek to maximize the use of the explosive detection equipment.”.

SEC. 7. AIRPORT NOISE STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 745 of the Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century (49 U.S.C. 47501 note; 114 Stat. 178) is amended—

(1) in the section heading by striking “GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE”;

(2) in subsection (a) by striking “Comptroller General of the United States shall” and inserting “Secretary shall enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences to”;

(3) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking “Comptroller General” and inserting “National Academy of Sciences”;

(B) by striking paragraph (1);

(C) by adding “and” at the end of paragraph (4);

(D) by striking “; and” at the end of paragraph (5) and inserting a period;

(E) by striking paragraph (6); and

(F) by redesignating paragraphs (2), (3), (4), and (5) as paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4), respectively;

(4) by striking subsection (c) and inserting the following:

“(c) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the agreement entered into under subsection (a), the National Academy of Sciences shall transmit to the Secretary a report on the results of the study. Upon receipt of the report, the Secretary shall transmit a copy of the report to the appropriate committees of Congress.

“(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for such Act (114 Stat. 61 et seq.) is amended by striking item relating to section 745 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 745. Airport noise study.”.

SEC. 8. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.

(a) FEDERAL AVIATION MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL.—Section 106(p)(2) is amended by striking “15” and inserting “18”.

(b) NATIONAL PARKS AIR TOUR MANAGEMENT.—Title VIII of the Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century (49 U.S.C. 40128 note; 114 Stat. 185 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 803(c) by striking “40126” each place it appears and inserting “40128”;

(2) in section 804(b) by striking “40126(e)(4)” and inserting “40128(f)”;

(3) in section 806 by striking “40126” and inserting “40128”.

(c) RESTATEMENT OF PROVISION WITHOUT SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE.—Section 41104(b) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), an air carrier, including an indirect air carrier, may not provide, in aircraft designed for more than 9 passenger seats, regularly scheduled charter air transportation for which the public is provided in advance a schedule containing the departure location, departure time, and arrival location of the flight unless such air transportation is to and from an airport that has an airport operating certificate issued under part 139 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or any subsequent similar regulation).”;

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) EXCEPTION.—This subsection does not apply to any airport in the State of Alaska or to any airport outside the United States.”.

SEC. 9. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Except as otherwise expressly provided, this Act and the amendments made by this Act shall

take effect 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. I ask unanimous consent the Senate agree to the amendment of the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, we have just passed the Aviation Security Improvement Act of 2000. I am very pleased that we have been able, in a very bipartisan way, to pass this bill. I would like to just talk a little bit about how we came to pass the Aviation Security Act of 2000.

Thanks to Senator SLADE GORTON, the chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee, I was able to chair a hearing in which we heard from the FAA, particularly Admiral Flynn, about the state of our airport security. “What is the state of our airport security?” we asked. We wanted to know if we were doing everything we could to give our traveling public the most security possible.

Admiral Flynn did a report and shared that with the Members of the Senate who came to the hearing. Every single Senator who attended the hearing became a cosponsor of the bill that we have just passed because there were some areas that we could clearly see needed to be made more strict, more stringent, just to make sure that we take every single measure we can to make our airports totally secure. Not that they are not, but there were some areas in which we could do better.

So after the hearing and because of the outstanding testimony of Admiral Flynn of the FAA, we did put together a bill that was quite bipartisan. Chairman JOHN MCCAIN of the Commerce Committee came together with Chairman SLADE GORTON of the Aviation Subcommittee. Senators HOLLINGS, INOUE, BRYAN, and ROCKEFELLER all became immediate cosponsors of the bill. With that bipartisan group, we were able to make the changes that have been passed by the House and now will go to the President.

Six hundred million travelers will pass through U.S. airports. Their safety depends on the soundness of the inspection points and the checkpoints, and we all have been through those monitors and we know how important it is that we have the best equipment and the best trained technicians to make sure we do not have any kind of firearms or explosives of any kind going into our airplanes.

So we were able to pass this bill. I just want to make a couple of the points that are important in the bill.

First, today, a person who has a lapse in employment history—whether it would be a year, 18 months, 2 years—would have a criminal background check done before they could be hired to be an airport baggage screener.

Under the bill that we are passing today, there will be a criminal history record check on every person who becomes a baggage screener.

Secondly, we looked at the airport training requirements for airport bag-

gage screeners. We found that in the most industrialized countries there is a minimum of 40 hours of required training before a person can become a baggage screener, but in America the standard is 8 hours.

The committee and the Congress believe we need to have more hours of required training and a test for baggage screeners. That will happen because of the bill we have just passed.

Third, the security procedures in sensitive areas, such as the air traffic control towers, will be beefed up. And there will be prescribed security protocols and sanctions for people who violate those protocols.

And fourth, the new generation of explosive detection systems will be utilized at a higher rate because of the bill we have passed today.

I think we have done a very good job. I am very pleased that we had such a bipartisan effort on this piece of legislation. It could not have happened without the House and the Senate working together and so many people who did come into the negotiations on this bill. The leadership of our chairman, JOHN MCCAIN, and our subcommittee chairman, SLADE GORTON, were essential, along with Senators HOLLINGS, INOUE, BRYAN, and ROCKEFELLER.

I also thank the staff who worked so hard. As you know, many times Senators have 10 things that are being asked of them at any one time. Without very good staff work, this would not have passed. So I especially thank my Commerce Committee staff legislative aid, Joe Mondello, who did yeoman service in making sure the bill got through committee and worked out all the little things that came up that could have unraveled the bill and did not. On Senator MCCAIN’s staff, Mike Reynolds, and Rob Chamberlin, who also did terrific work in making sure we got this expeditiously through the committee in the last hours of the session, because we did not want to wait 60 days before we could bring this back next year. It is too important.

The air traveling public deserve to have the very best airport security. That is what this bill will allow. I believe the President will sign the bill. I urge him to do so.

Thank you, Mr. President.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to Public Law 106-173, announces the following appointments to the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission: The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING), and Dr. Gabor S. Boritt, of Pennsylvania.

JAMES MADISON COMMEMORATION COMMISSION ACT

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. 3137.