

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4928

To require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to respond to requests for information from Members of Congress, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 3, 2021

Ms. SPEIER (for herself, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. RASKIN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to respond to requests for information from Members of Congress, 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 “Responsive Employees
5 Support Productive Educated Congressional Talk Act” or
6 the “RESPECT Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FAA RESPONSIVENESS TO CONGRESS.**

2 (a) PURPOSE.—This section is enacted pursuant to
3 the legislative oversight responsibilities of Congress and
4 to enable a Member of Congress to effectively represent
5 their constituents and respond to constituent inquiries.

6 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—If a Member of Congress sub-
7 mits to the FAA a written request for information on pro-
8 posed, previous, or current flight procedures or other data
9 or information relating to the District of such Member,
10 the following conditions apply:

11 (1) DATA REQUEST.—Not later than 90 days
12 after receipt of such request, the Administrator of
13 the FAA shall substantively respond in writing with
14 the requested data or information in the format re-
15 quested by the Member of Congress, if—

16 (A) the data is within the control of the
17 FAA; and

18 (B) the data would be otherwise appro-
19 priate to provide if requested—

20 (i) by an airline, an airport, a flight
21 procedure proponent, an Aviation Round-
22 table, or anyone not employed by the FAA;
23 or

24 (ii) via a Freedom of Information re-
25 quest from any individual or any entity.

1 (2) NOTIFICATION.—If the Administrator does
2 not provide the requested information pursuant to
3 paragraph (1), the Administrator shall notify the re-
4 questing Member of Congress, Congress, and the
5 Chairman and Ranking Member of the Transpor-
6 tation and Infrastructure Committee of the House of
7 Representatives.

8 (c) STAFFING OF MEETINGS.—If a Member of Con-
9 gress submits to the FAA a written request for the FAA
10 to provide staff at a private or public meeting with the
11 Member, the Administrator shall provide such staff if—

12 (1) the request is made in writing at least 30
13 days before the meeting date; and

14 (2) the request is made on the same terms and
15 conditions as specified by FAA appearances at Avia-
16 tion Roundtable meetings.

17 (d) NOTIFICATION.—If the Administrator does not
18 comply with a request made by a Member of Congress (as
19 described in subsection (c)), the Administrator shall pro-
20 vide the requesting Member of Congress, Congress, and
21 the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Transportation
22 and Infrastructure Committee of the House of Represent-
23 atives with an explanation why the request will not be ful-
24 filled.

1 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following defi-
2 nitions apply:

3 (1) FLIGHT PROCEDURE.—The term “flight
4 procedure” means a preplanned Instrument Flight
5 Rules (IFR) procedure published for pilot use, in
6 graphic or textual format, that provides obstruction
7 clearance from the terminal area to the en route
8 structure (departure) or from the en route structure
9 to the terminal area (arrival).

10 (2) PROCEDURE PROPONENT.—The term “pro-
11 cedure proponent” means a person or entity pro-
12 posing a new or modified flight procedure.

13 (3) AVIATION ROUNDTABLE.—The term “Avia-
14 tion Roundtable” means an organization designed to
15 address community concerns over a sustained period
16 of time regarding aircraft operations often associ-
17 ated with a nearby airport.

○