

# Union Calendar No. 461

117<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 6856

[Report No. 117-641]

To reduce the number of firearms at Transportation Security Administration passenger screening checkpoints by directing the Administrator to carry out a range of activities to inform the public about restrictions regarding the carrying of firearms in sterile areas of airports and to strengthen enforcement of such restrictions and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 28, 2022

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

DECEMBER 14, 2022

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on February 28, 2022]

# **A BILL**

To reduce the number of firearms at Transportation Security Administration passenger screening checkpoints by directing the Administrator to carry out a range of activities to inform the public about restrictions regarding the carrying of firearms in sterile areas of airports and to strengthen enforcement of such restrictions 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 “Securing Air Travel*  
5 *Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. SIGNAGE.**

7        *Section 44901 of title 49, United States Code, is*  
8 *amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:*

9        *“(m) SIGNAGE REGARDING FIREARMS.—*

10            *“(1) CHECKPOINT SIGNAGE.—Not later than one*  
11 *year after the date of the enactment of this subsection,*  
12 *the Administrator of the Transportation Security Ad-*  
13 *ministration shall display uniform signage in pas-*  
14 *senger screening checkpoints to inform individuals at*  
15 *such checkpoints of restrictions regarding the carrying*  
16 *of a firearm in the sterile area of an airport. Such*  
17 *signage shall include visual elements and a concise*  
18 *description of the maximum criminal and civil pen-*  
19 *alties (with relevant statutory or regulatory citations)*  
20 *for unlawfully carrying a firearm in the sterile area*  
21 *of an airport.*

22            *“(2) PLACEMENT.—Signage under paragraph*  
23 *(1) shall be prominently displayed and located in*  
24 *such a manner that it would reasonably be expected*

1        *to be seen by an individual prior to entering the pas-*  
2        *senger screening checkpoint.*

3            “(3) *AIRPORTS WITH FREQUENT FIREARM*  
4        *INTERDICTIONS.—Not later than one year after the*  
5        *date of the enactment of this subsection and bienni-*  
6        *ally thereafter, the Administrator of the Transpor-*  
7        *tation Security Administration shall publish a list of*  
8        *not fewer than 25 airports at which firearms were*  
9        *most frequently interdicted at passenger screening*  
10       *checkpoints in the prior two years. If with respect to*  
11       *any such list there are fewer than 25 such airports,*  
12       *such list shall include as many of such airports as are*  
13       *otherwise described in this paragraph.*

14            “(4) *ADDITIONAL ENHANCED SIGNAGE FOR AIR-*  
15        *PORTS WITH FREQUENT FIREARM INTERDICTIONS.—*  
16        *Not later than 180 days after the date of the publica-*  
17        *tion of each list required under paragraph (3), the*  
18        *Administrator of the Transportation Security Admin-*  
19        *istration shall require each airport included on the*  
20        *list to install additional enhanced signage at all pas-*  
21        *senger terminal entrances to such airports to inform*  
22        *the public and individuals planning to enter a pas-*  
23        *senger screening checkpoint of the restrictions regard-*  
24        *ing the carrying of a firearm in the sterile area of the*  
25        *airport and, as applicable, State, local, territorial, or*

1     *other jurisdiction-specific restrictions on carrying*  
2     *firearms in the publicly-accessible areas of the air-*  
3     *port. Such additional enhanced signage shall be con-*  
4     *sistent for all airports required to install such addi-*  
5     *tional enhanced signage under this paragraph, except,*  
6     *as the case may be, for descriptions of such applicable*  
7     *State, local, territorial, or other jurisdiction-specific*  
8     *restrictions. The Administrator may permit an air-*  
9     *port to remove such signage if such airport is not in-*  
10    *cluded on a subsequent list.*

11           “(5) *OUTDATED SIGNAGE.*—*If any relevant in-*  
12    *formation on signage installed pursuant to this sub-*  
13    *section is rendered inaccurate due to statutory, regu-*  
14    *latory, or other changes, the Administrator shall en-*  
15    *sure such signage is updated in a timely manner, ex-*  
16    *cept this paragraph does not apply in the case of an-*  
17    *nuual inflation adjustments to civil monetary pen-*  
18    *alties.*

19           “(6) *DEFINITIONS.*—*In this subsection:*

20                   “(A) *PASSENGER SCREENING CHECK-*  
21    *POINT.*—*The term ‘passenger screening check-*  
22    *point’ means the designated area at each airport*  
23    *located in the United States at which the Trans-*  
24    *portation Security Administration, or an entity*  
25    *authorized by the Administration pursuant to*

1           *section 44920, or other comparable authority,*  
2           *provides for the screening of passengers and*  
3           *carry-on baggage.*

4           “(B) *PASSENGER TERMINAL ENTRANCE.*—  
5           *The term ‘passenger terminal entrance’ means*  
6           *the area at each airport located in the United*  
7           *States where individuals arriving to the airport*  
8           *by means other than a flight first enter the ter-*  
9           *terminal or other comparable enclosure containing*  
10           *passenger facilities of the airport located prior to*  
11           *the passenger screening checkpoint.*

12           “(C) *STERILE AREA.*—*The term ‘sterile*  
13           *area’ has the meaning given such term in section*  
14           *1540.5 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations.”.*

15 **SEC. 3. PUBLIC AWARENESS INITIATIVES.**

16           (a) *CAMPAIGN.*—

17                   (1) *IN GENERAL.*—

18                           (A) *IMPLEMENTATION.*—*Not later than 120*  
19                           *days after the date of the enactment of this Act,*  
20                           *the Administrator of the Transportation Secu-*  
21                           *rity Administration shall implement a public*  
22                           *awareness campaign to inform the public of the*  
23                           *potential criminal and civil consequences of car-*  
24                           *rying a firearm in the sterile area of an airport*  
25                           *that includes actual examples of the criminal*

1           *and civil consequences imposed on individuals*  
2           *who violated such prohibition.*

3           *(B) PROHIBITION.—Actual examples under*  
4           *subparagraph (A) may not include any person-*  
5           *ally identifiable information regarding individ-*  
6           *uals described in such subparagraph.*

7           *(2) ELEMENTS.—The campaign required under*  
8           *paragraph (1) shall, at a minimum, involve—*

9                   *(A) the use of Transportation Security Ad-*  
10                  *ministration websites, social media channels,*  
11                  *press releases, and other means of external com-*  
12                  *munication;*

13                  *(B) the production of audiovisual materials*  
14                  *to be distributed via online video sharing plat-*  
15                  *forms;*

16                  *(C) engagement with external organizations,*  
17                  *including local and national organizations with*  
18                  *memberships that could benefit from information*  
19                  *regarding how to lawfully travel with a firearm*  
20                  *in checked baggage or, in the case of an author-*  
21                  *ized law enforcement officer, lawfully enter a*  
22                  *sterile area with a firearm;*

23                  *(D) engagement with press and media, in-*  
24                  *cluding, to the extent practicable, local press and*  
25                  *media in at least those cities that host airports*

1 identified biennially pursuant to paragraph (3)  
2 of subsection (m) of section 44901 of title 49,  
3 United States Code, as amended by section 2;  
4 and

5 (E) engagement with transportation stake-  
6 holders, such as taxi services, public transpor-  
7 tation systems, online platforms for ridesharing,  
8 air carriers, airport operators, and law enforce-  
9 ment organizations, regarding potential partner-  
10 ships, including the possibility of integrating  
11 into mobile applications and websites used by  
12 passengers to reserve ground transportation to  
13 the airport, check into flights, and perform other  
14 travel-related functions warnings regarding po-  
15 tential criminal and civil consequences of car-  
16 rying a firearm into the sterile area of an air-  
17 port.

18 (3) *EXISTING EFFORTS.*—The campaign required  
19 under paragraph (1) shall supplement and not sup-  
20 plant any other related existing campaign.

21 (b) *TARGETED ADVERTISING.*—

22 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—The Administrator of the  
23 Transportation Security Administration may pur-  
24 chase or otherwise place advertisements describing the  
25 potential criminal and civil consequences of carrying



1        *a firearm in the sterile area of an airport or on or*  
 2        *about one’s person or property that would be acces-*  
 3        *sible in flight, and actual examples of the criminal*  
 4        *and civil consequences faced by individuals who vio-*  
 5        *lated such prohibition, on websites and in publica-*  
 6        *tions (or on or in such other advertising mediums as*  
 7        *the Administrator determines appropriate) that target*  
 8        *audiences seeking information concerning—*

9                    *(A) firearms or related activities;*

10                   *(B) travel, tourism, or related matters; and*

11                   *(C) such other matters the Administrator*  
 12                   *determines appropriate.*

13                   *(2) PROHIBITION.—Actual examples under para-*  
 14                   *graph (1) may not include any personally identifiable*  
 15                   *information regarding individuals described in such*  
 16                   *paragraph.*

17        **SEC. 4. FINES.**

18                   *(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 449 of title*  
 19                   *49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end*  
 20                   *the following new section:*

21        **“§44930. Minimum civil monetary penalties for cer-**  
 22                   **tain firearm-related violations**

23                   *“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the*  
 24                   *date of the enactment of this section, the Administrator of*  
 25                   *the Transportation Security Administration shall establish*

1 *minimum civil monetary penalty amounts for repeat or*  
2 *egregious violations of subsection (a) of section 1540.111 of*  
3 *title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, relating to the car-*  
4 *riage of firearms on or in an individual's person or acces-*  
5 *sible property into the sterile area of an airport or onboard*  
6 *an aircraft.*

7       “(b) *MINIMUM CIVIL MONETARY PENALTIES FOR RE-*  
8 *PEAT VIOLATIONS.—The minimum civil monetary penalty*  
9 *amount for a repeat violation of subsection (a) of section*  
10 *1540.111 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, involving*  
11 *a firearm shall be—*

12               “(1) *in the case of an individual with respect to*  
13 *whom such a repeat violation occurs within five years*  
14 *of the date of the final adjudication of a previous such*  
15 *violation—*

16                       “(A) *\$10,000 for any such repeat violation*  
17 *involving an unloaded firearm; and*

18                       “(B) *\$12,500 for any such repeat violation*  
19 *involving a loaded firearm or unloaded firearm*  
20 *with accessible ammunition; and*

21               “(2) *in the case of an individual with respect to*  
22 *whom such a repeat violation occurs more than five*  
23 *years after the date of the final adjudication of a pre-*  
24 *vious such violation—*

1           “(A) \$5,000 for any such repeat violation  
2           involving an unloaded firearm; and

3           “(B) \$10,000 for any such repeat violation  
4           involving a loaded firearm or unloaded firearm  
5           with accessible ammunition.

6           “(c) *MINIMUM CIVIL MONETARY PENALTIES FOR*  
7 *EGREGIOUS VIOLATIONS.—The minimum civil monetary*  
8 *penalty amount for an intentional or otherwise egregious*  
9 *violation of subsection (a) of section 1540.111 of title 49,*  
10 *Code of Federal Regulations, involving a firearm shall be—*

11           “(1) \$10,000 for any knowing violation in the  
12           case of a deliberate attempt to conceal such firearm;  
13           and

14           “(2) \$5,000 for any violation which the Admin-  
15           istrator of the Transportation Security Administra-  
16           tion determines is otherwise egregious, including if  
17           the firearm at issue—

18           “(A) is known to the Administrator to—

19           “(i) not contain a serial number when  
20           required by law; or

21           “(ii) have been manufactured using  
22           additive layer manufacturing (commonly  
23           known as ‘3-D printing’); or

24           “(B) is—

1                   “(i) of a nature or type that poses a  
2                   greater risk to aviation security than fire-  
3                   arms typically identified at passenger  
4                   screening checkpoints; or

5                   “(ii) identified with ammunition that  
6                   is of a nature or type that poses a greater  
7                   risk to aviation security than ammunition  
8                   typically identified at passenger screening  
9                   checkpoints.

10           “(d) *SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES*.—An individual sub-  
11           ject to a minimum civil monetary penalty amount pursu-  
12           ant to subsection (a) may appeal such penalty amount or  
13           seek a reduction in such penalty amount in the case of such  
14           individual’s particular violation, including based on miti-  
15           gating factors (including in accordance with subsection (e))  
16           pursuant to procedures provided for in the Transportation  
17           Security Administration’s security regulations. The Admin-  
18           istrator of the Transportation Security Administration  
19           may, if the Administrator determines such is appropriate,  
20           grant such appeal or reduce such penalty amount, as the  
21           case may be.

22           “(e) *SELF-DISCLOSURE*.—Notwithstanding any other  
23           provision of this section, the Administrator of the Transpor-  
24           tation Security Administration may consider self-disclosure  
25           as a mitigating factor when determining the amount of a

1 *civil monetary penalty if an individual, in good faith, vol-*  
2 *untarily discloses a violation of subsection (a) of section*  
3 *1540.111 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, to the*  
4 *Transportation Security Administration, an entity author-*  
5 *ized to conduct screening pursuant to section 44920 of title*  
6 *49, United States Code, a Government representative, an*  
7 *employee or contractor of an airline or airport, or other*  
8 *appropriate authority, after the individual is present for*  
9 *screening at a passenger screening checkpoint but prior to*  
10 *the detection of such violation. The Administrator shall in-*  
11 *form appropriate Administration passenger screening*  
12 *checkpoint personnel, entities authorized to conduct screen-*  
13 *ing pursuant to section 44920 of title 49, United States*  
14 *Code, Government representatives, employees or contractors*  
15 *of an airline or airport, and other appropriate authorities*  
16 *regarding appropriate procedures for handling the self-dis-*  
17 *closure of such a violation, including procedures for con-*  
18 *tacting law enforcement.*

19       “(f) *PAYMENT PLANS.—The Administrator of the*  
20 *Transportation Security Administration may provide pay-*  
21 *ment plans for payment of civil monetary penalty amounts*  
22 *under this section for a violation of subsection (a) of section*  
23 *1540.111 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, in the*  
24 *event an individual provides documentation of hardship.*

1       “(g) *USE OF AMOUNTS FROM CIVIL MONETARY PEN-*  
2 *ALTIES.—The Administrator shall obligate and expend*  
3 *amounts received from the imposition of civil monetary*  
4 *penalties under this section for repeat or egregious viola-*  
5 *tions of subsection (a) of section 1540.111 of title 49, Code*  
6 *of Federal Regulations, involving a firearm for the acquisi-*  
7 *tion and deployment of passenger screening checkpoint tech-*  
8 *nology.*

9       “(h) *RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-*  
10 *tion may be interpreted as—*

11               “(1) *limiting the authority of the Administrator*  
12 *of the Transportation Security Administration to*  
13 *issue civil monetary penalty amounts that are greater*  
14 *than those established as minimum civil monetary*  
15 *penalty amounts pursuant to this section;*

16               “(2) *limiting the authority of the Administrator*  
17 *to establish minimum civil monetary penalty*  
18 *amounts with respect to first-time or non-egregious*  
19 *violations of section 1540.111 of title 49, Code of Fed-*  
20 *eral Regulations; or*

21               “(3) *instructing the Administrator to establish a*  
22 *minimum civil monetary penalty amount with re-*  
23 *spect to violations involving unloaded replicas of fire-*  
24 *arms not capable of discharge.*

1       “(i) *DEFINITION.*—*In this section, the term ‘passenger*  
 2 *screening checkpoint’ means the designated area at each*  
 3 *airport located in the United States at which the Transpor-*  
 4 *tation Security Administration, or an entity authorized by*  
 5 *the Administration pursuant to section 44920, or other*  
 6 *comparable authority, provides for the screening of pas-*  
 7 *sengers and carry-on baggage.’”.*

8       “(b) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—*The table of sections for*  
 9 *chapter 449 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by*  
 10 *inserting after the item relating to section 44929 the fol-*  
 11 *lowing new item:*

“44930. *Minimum civil monetary penalties for certain firearm-related viola-*  
*tions.’”.*

12 **SEC. 5. PRECHECK ELIGIBILITY.**

13       Section 44919 of title 49, United States Code, is  
 14 amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

15       “(m) *INELIGIBILITY OF INDIVIDUALS UNLAWFULLY*  
 16 *POSSESSING FIREARMS IN RESTRICTED AREAS.*—

17       “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—*Any unauthorized indi-*  
 18 *vidual who possesses a firearm after the individual is*  
 19 *present for screening at a passenger screening check-*  
 20 *point shall be ineligible for expedited security screen-*  
 21 *ing and prohibited from participating in the*  
 22 *PreCheck Program for a period of time determined by*  
 23 *the Administrator of the Transportation Security Ad-*  
 24 *ministration in the Administrator’s sole discretion.*

1           “(2) *REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION.*—*The*  
2           *Administrator of the Transportation Security Admin-*  
3           *istration shall maintain a procedure through which*  
4           *an individual subject to a period of ineligibility pur-*  
5           *suant to this subsection may petition the Adminis-*  
6           *trator for a reduction in the duration of such period.*  
7           *The Administrator may, if the Administrator deter-*  
8           *mines such is appropriate, reduce such duration. Any*  
9           *such determination shall be in the Administrator’s*  
10          *sole discretion.*

11           “(3) *DEFINITION.*—*In this subsection, the term*  
12          *‘passenger screening checkpoint’ means the designated*  
13          *area at each airport located in the United States at*  
14          *which the Transportation Security Administration,*  
15          *or an entity authorized by the Administration pursu-*  
16          *ant to section 44920, or other comparable authority,*  
17          *provides for the screening of passengers and carry-on*  
18          *baggage.’”.*

19 **SEC. 6. REPORT.**

20          *Not later than one year after the date of the enactment*  
21          *of this Act and biennially thereafter, the Administrator of*  
22          *the Transportation Security Administration shall submit*  
23          *to the appropriate congressional committees a report de-*  
24          *scribing the following:*



1           (1) *The implementation of the signage require-*  
2 *ment under paragraph (1) of subsection (m) of section*  
3 *44901 of title 49, United States Code, and the imple-*  
4 *mentation of the signage requirement under para-*  
5 *graph (4) of such subsection (including a copy of the*  
6 *list of airports required to be produced biennially*  
7 *thereunder), as such section was amended by section*  
8 *2.*

9           (2) *The public awareness activities of the Ad-*  
10 *ministration relating to firearms, including activities*  
11 *conducted pursuant to section 3.*

12           (3) *The number of violations of subsection (a) of*  
13 *section 1540.111 of title 49, Code of Federal Regula-*  
14 *tions, and any other incidents involving the unau-*  
15 *thorized carriage of a firearm at a passenger screen-*  
16 *ing checkpoint, including information regarding*  
17 *which such violations and incidents were committed*  
18 *by individuals while receiving expedited screening,*  
19 *during the period of time covered by each such report.*

20           (4) *PreCheck Program revocations or denials*  
21 *pursuant to subsection (m) of section 44919, United*  
22 *States Code, as added by this Act, during the period*  
23 *of time covered by each such report.*

1           (5) *Any new or evolving threats relating to, or*  
2           *efforts to enhance, public area security at airports as*  
3           *such pertains to firearms.*

4           (6) *Such other matters relating to firearm-re-*  
5           *lated threats to transportation security as the Admin-*  
6           *istrator determines appropriate.*

7 **SEC. 7. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REVIEW.**

8           *Not later than two years after the date of the enact-*  
9           *ment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United*  
10          *States shall submit to the appropriate congressional com-*  
11          *mittees a review of the Transportation Security Adminis-*  
12          *tration's efforts to—*

13                 (1) *implement the provisions of this Act and the*  
14                 *amendments made by this Act;*

15                 (2) *deter the carriage of firearms and other dan-*  
16                 *gerous items at passenger screening checkpoints*  
17                 *through means other than those required by this Act*  
18                 *and such amendments; and*

19                 (3) *enhance public area security at airports*  
20                 *against firearm-related threats.*

21 **SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.**

22           *In this Act:*

23                 (1) *APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-*  
24                 *TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional commit-*  
25                 *tees” means the Committee on Homeland Security of*

1       *the House of Representatives and the Committee on*  
2       *Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.*

3           (2) *PASSENGER SCREENING CHECKPOINT.*—*The*  
4       *term “passenger screening checkpoint” means the des-*  
5       *ignated area at each airport located in the United*  
6       *States at which the Transportation Security Admin-*  
7       *istration, or an entity authorized by the Administra-*  
8       *tion pursuant to section 44920 of title 49, United*  
9       *States Code, or other comparable authority, provides*  
10      *for the screening of passengers and carry-on baggage.*

11          (3) *STERILE AREA.*—*The term “sterile area” has*  
12      *the meaning given such term in section 1540.5 of title*  
13      *49, Code of Federal Regulations.*

Union Calendar No. 461

117<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

**H. R. 6856**

[Report No. 117-641]

---

---

**A BILL**

To reduce the number of firearms at Transportation Security Administration passenger screening checkpoints by directing the Administrator to carry out a range of activities to inform the public about restrictions regarding the carrying of firearms in sterile areas of airports and to strengthen enforcement of such restrictions and for other purposes.

---

---

DECEMBER 14, 2022

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed