

117TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

### H.R.6270

#### AN ACT

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a pilot program to provide grants related to advanced air mobility infrastructure, 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,

#### 1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2	This Act may be cited as the "Advanced Aviation In-
3	frastructure Modernization Act" or the "AAIM Act".
4	SEC. 2. ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY INFRASTRUCTURE PILOT
5	PROGRAM.
6	(a) Establishment.—Not later than 180 days after
7	the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall es-
8	tablish a pilot program to provide grants that—
9	(1) assist an eligible entity to plan for the de-
10	velopment and deployment of infrastructure nec-
11	essary to facilitate AAM operations in the United
12	States; and
13	(2) make funding available for costs directly re-
14	lated to construction of public-use vertiports or asso-
15	ciated infrastructure.
16	(b) Planning Grants.—
17	(1) In general.—The Secretary shall provide
18	grants to eligible entities to develop comprehensive
19	plans under paragraph (2) related to AAM infra-
20	structure.
21	(2) Comprehensive plan.—
22	(A) In general.—Not later than 1 year
23	after receiving a grant under this subsection, an
24	eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary a
25	comprehensive plan in a format that may be

1	published on the website of the Department of
2	Transportation.
3	(B) Plan contents.—The Secretary
4	shall establish content requirements for com-
5	prehensive plans submitted under this sub-
6	section, which may include the following:
7	(i) The identification of planned or
8	potential public-use or private-use vertiport
9	locations.
10	(ii) A description of infrastructure
11	necessary to support AAM operations.
12	(iii) A description of types of planned
13	or potential AAM operations.
14	(iv) The identification of physical and
15	digital infrastructure required to meet the
16	standards for vertiport design and per-
17	formance characteristics established by the
18	Federal Aviation Administration (as in ef-
19	fect on the date on which the Secretary
20	issues a grant to an eligible entity), includ-
21	ing modifications to existing infrastructure
22	and ground sensors, electric charging and
23	other fueling requirements, electric utility
24	requirements, wireless and cybersecurity

1	requirements, and other necessary hard-
2	ware or software.
3	(v) A description of potential environ-
4	mental effects of planned construction or
5	siting of public-use vertiports, including ef-
6	forts to reduce the adverse effects of po-
7	tential aviation noise.
8	(vi) A description of how planned pub-
9	lic-use or private-use vertiport locations,
10	including new or repurposed infrastruc-
11	ture, fit into existing State and local trans-
12	portation systems and networks, includ-
13	ing—
14	(I) connectivity to existing public
15	transportation hubs and intermodal
16	and multimodal facilities;
17	(II) opportunities to create new
18	service to areas underserved by air
19	transportation, without compromising
20	safety and efficiency of other facilities
21	and airspace users; and
22	(III) any potential conflicts to ex-
23	isting aviation infrastructure that may
24	arise from the proposed location of
25	the vertiport.

1	(vii) A description of how public-use
2	vertiport planning will be incorporated in
3	State or metropolitan planning documents.
4	(viii) The identification of the process
5	an eligible entity will undertake to ensure
6	an adequate level of community engage-
7	ment for planned public-use vertiport loca-
8	tions and planned or anticipated AAM op-
9	erations, including engagement with under-
10	served communities, individuals with dis-
11	abilities, and racial and ethnic minorities
12	to address equity of access and other prior-
13	ities.
14	(ix) The identification of the actions
15	necessary for an eligible entity to under-
16	take the construction of public-use
17	vertiports, such as planning studies to as-
18	sess existing infrastructure, environmental
19	studies, studies of projected economic ben-
20	efit to the community, lease or acquisition
21	of an easement or land for new infrastruc-
22	ture, and activities related to other capital
23	costs.
24	(x) The identification of State, local
25	or private sources of funding an eligible

1	entity may use to assist with the construc-
2	tion or operation of a public-use vertiport.
3	(3) APPLICATION.—To apply for a grant under
4	this subsection, an eligible entity shall provide to the
5	Secretary an application in such form, at such time,
6	and containing such information as the Secretary
7	may require.
8	(4) Selection.—
9	(A) In General.—In awarding grants
10	under this subsection, the Secretary shall con-
11	sider the following:
12	(i) Geographic diversity.
13	(ii) The need for comprehensive plans
14	that—
15	(I) ensure the safe integration of
16	AAM operations into the National
17	Airspace System;
18	(II) improve transportation safe-
19	ty, connectivity, access, and equity in
20	both rural and urban regions in the
21	United States;
22	(III) leverage existing public
23	transportation systems and intermodal
24	and multimodal facilities;

1	(IV) reduce surface congestion
2	and the environmental impacts of
3	transportation;
4	(V) grow the economy and create
5	jobs in the United States; and
6	(VI) encourage community en-
7	gagement when planning for AAM re-
8	lated infrastructure.
9	(B) Priority.—The Secretary shall
10	prioritize awarding grants under this subsection
11	to eligible entities that partner with commercial
12	AAM entities, institutions of higher education,
13	research institutions, or other relevant stake-
14	holders to develop and prepare a comprehensive
15	plan.
16	(5) Grant amount.—Each grant made under
17	this subsection shall be made in an amount that is
18	not more than \$1,000,000.
19	(6) Briefing.—
20	(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180
21	days after the first comprehensive plan is sub-
22	mitted under paragraph (2), and every 180
23	days thereafter, the Secretary shall provide a
24	briefing to the appropriate committees of Con-

1	gress on the comprehensive plans submitted to
2	the Secretary under such paragraph.
3	(B) Contents.—The briefing required
4	under subparagraph (A) shall include—
5	(i) an evaluation of all planned or pro-
6	posed public-use vertiport locations in-
7	cluded in the comprehensive plans sub-
8	mitted under paragraph (2) and how such
9	planned or proposed public-use vertiport
10	locations may fit into the overall United
11	States transportation system and network;
12	and
13	(ii) a description of lessons or best
14	practices learned through the review of
15	comprehensive plans and how the Sec-
16	retary will incorporate any such lessons or
17	best practices into Federal standards or
18	guidance for the design and operation of
19	AAM infrastructure and facilities.
20	(e) Construction Grants.—
21	(1) In general.—The Secretary may award
22	grants to covered recipients to carry out construc-
23	tion activities described under paragraph (2).
24	(2) Eligible uses.—A covered recipient may
25	use grant funds awarded under this subsection for

1	design, bidding, and environmental study activities
2	and other capital costs, as the Secretary determines
3	appropriate, directly related to the construction of a
4	public-use vertiport or associated infrastructure pur-
5	suant to the comprehensive plan submitted by such
6	covered recipient.
7	(3) Requirements.—The requirements of sub-
8	sections (b) and (c) of section 47112 of title 49
9	United States Code, and section 50101 of such title
10	shall apply to a grant awarded under this sub-
11	section.
12	(4) Limitation.—The Secretary may not
13	award a grant under this subsection—
14	(A) for the acquisition, conversion, or ret-
15	rofitting of AAM aircraft; or
16	(B) for the construction of private-use
17	vertiports or associated infrastructure.
18	(5) Grant timing.—The Secretary may not
19	issue a grant under this subsection until—
20	(A) the Administrator of the Federal Avia-
21	tion Administration has—
22	(i) issued type certificates for 2 or
23	more models of aircraft designed to provide
24	AAM transportation; and

1	(ii) published an advisory circular con-
2	taining appropriate standards for vertiport
3	design and performance characteristics and
4	vertiport siting; and
5	(B) the Secretary has—
6	(i) determined that 2 or more AAM
7	operators hold certificates under part 119
8	of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations,
9	for such operators to perform air carrier
10	operations covered under part 135 of such
11	title; and
12	(ii) issued, to 2 or more air carriers
13	formed to provide AAM transportation,
14	certificates under chapter 411 of title 49,
15	United States Code.
16	(d) Authorization of Appropriations.—
17	(1) Authorization.—There are authorized to
18	be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this
19	section \$12,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2022
20	and 2023, to remain available until expended.
21	(2) Administrative expenses.—Of the
22	amounts made available under paragraph (1), the
23	Secretary may retain up to 1 percent for personnel,
24	contracting, and other costs to establish and admin-
25	ister the pilot program under this section.

1	(e) Termination.—
2	(1) In general.—No grant may be awarded
3	under this section after September 30, 2023.
4	(2) Continued funding.—Funds authorized
5	to be appropriated pursuant to subsection (d) may
6	be expended after September 30, 2023—
7	(A) for grants awarded prior to September
8	30, 2023; and
9	(B) for administrative expenses.
10	(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:
11	(1) ADVANCED AIR MOBILITY; AAM.—The terms
12	"advanced air mobility" and "AAM" mean an air
13	transportation system that transports individuals
14	and property between points in the United States
15	using aircraft, such as remotely piloted, autonomous,
16	or vertical take-off and landing aircraft, including
17	those powered by electric or hybrid driven propul-
18	sion, in both controlled and uncontrolled airspace.
19	(2) Appropriate committees of con-
20	GRESS.—The term "appropriate committees of Con-
21	gress" means the Committee on Transportation and
22	Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and
23	the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-

portation of the Senate.

24

1	(3) Commercial Aam entities.—The term
2	"commercial AAM entities" means—
3	(A) manufacturers of aircraft, avionics,
4	propulsion systems, and air traffic management
5	systems related to AAM; and
6	(B) intended commercial operators of AAM
7	aircraft and systems.
8	(4) COVERED RECIPIENT.—The term "covered
9	recipient" means the recipient of a grant under sub-
10	section (b) who has submitted a comprehensive
11	plan—
12	(A) that has been reviewed by the Sec-
13	retary pursuant to subsection (b); and
14	(B) that the Secretary has determined con-
15	tains proposed projects that comply with the
16	standards for vertiport design, performance,
17	and siting characteristics described in a pub-
18	lished advisory circular.
19	(5) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term "eligible enti-
20	ty' means—
21	(A) a State, local, or Tribal government,
22	including a political subdivision thereof;
23	(B) an airport sponsor;
24	(C) a transit agency;
25	(D) a port authority;

1	(E) a metropolitan planning organization;
2	or
3	(F) any combination or consortium of the
4	entities described in subparagraphs (A) through
5	(E).
6	(6) Metropolitan planning organiza-
7	TION.—The term "metropolitan planning organiza-
8	tion" has the meaning given such term in section
9	5303(b) of title 49, United States Code.
10	(7) Public-use vertiport.—The term "pub-
11	lic-use vertiport" means a designated location used
12	or intended to be used for public purposes and to
13	support AAM operations, including the landing,
14	takeoff, loading, taxiing, parking, and storage of
15	vertical take-off and landing aircraft.
16	(8) STATE.—The term "State" means a State
17	of the United States, the District of Columbia, Puer-
18	to Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, the
19	Northern Mariana Islands, and Guam.
20	(9) Secretary.—The term "Secretary" means
21	the Secretary of Transportation.
22	(10) Vertical take-off and landing air-
23	CRAFT.—The term "vertical take-off and landing
24	aircraft" means an aircraft with lift/thrust units
25	used to generate powered lift and control and with

- 1 2 or more lift/thrust units used to provide lift during
- 2 vertical take-off or landing.
- 3 SEC. 3. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.
- 4 Nothing in this Act may be construed as conferring
- 5 upon any person, State, local, or Tribal government the
- 6 authority to determine the safety of any AAM operation
- 7 or the feasibility of simultaneous operations by AAM and
- 8 conventional aircraft within any given area of the National
- 9 Airspace System.

Passed the House of Representatives June 13, 2022. Attest:

Clerk.

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