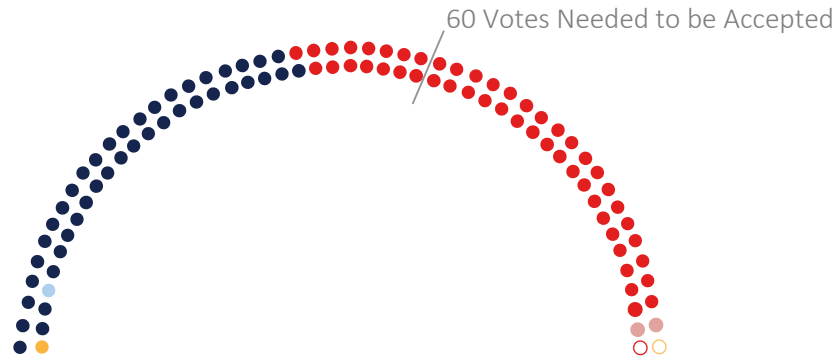


Senate Passes the FAA Reauthorization Bill with Strong Majority

How the Senate Voted on the FAA Reauthorization Bill



Votes by Party	Yea	Nay	Not Voting
Republicans	● 51	● 2	○ 1
Democrats	● 43	● 1	○ 0
Independents	● 1	● 0	○ 1
Total	95	3	2

“ This bill is the most pro-passenger, pro-security FAA reauthorization in recent history, travelers are frustrated, and this bill contains common-sense reforms.”

- Commerce Committee Chairman Senator Thune



Analysis

- The Nay votes came from Sen. Boxer (D-CA), Sen. Rubio (R-FL), and Sen. Lee (R-UT).
- The bill, H.R. 636, was originally titled America’s Small Business Tax Relief Act of 2015 and now will be sent over to the House with the new reauthorization text included.
- The Senate language only authorizes spending for 18 months, or the end of fiscal year 2017.
- The legislation will increase airport security, require airlines to refund baggage fees when luggage is delayed, and begins the process for regulating drones.

Source: Ashley Halsey III, “Senate backs ‘passenger friendly’ policy, funding for the FAA”, Washington Post, April 19, 2016; U.S. Senate, “Roll Call Votes 114th Congress -2nd Session,” March 10, 2016.

Rubio Suggests Removing Refugee Status for Cubans Citing Abuse of System

Before Voting on FAA Reauthorization Several Amendments Were Offered

Proposed Amendment	Vote	Summary
<p><i>"Cuban Immigrant Work Opportunity Act of 2016"</i></p>  <p>Sponsored by: Marco Rubio (R) Florida</p>	Failed to Pass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This law would make Cuban Immigrants equal to all other immigrants in terms of their eligibility to receive welfare payments when they arrive in the U.S. Current law automatically grants Cuban Immigrants refugee status which Rubio has said has led to significant abuse of rights to welfare monies.
<p><i>"Seat Size Act"</i></p>  <p>Sponsored by: Chuck Schumer (D) New York</p>	Failed to Pass	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would have set seat size minimums size to combat the practice of airlines charging more for extra legroom and space in seats. Schumer claimed that airlines are charging more for what used to be the standard size seat.

Next Steps

- The House is still debating their version of the bill. Likely, there will be a conference to fix discrepancies between the two chambers' bills and this will be another opportunity for amendments to be added.
- Chairman Thune is expected to try and add a bundle of his own amendments during conference.

Sources: David Morris, "Senate Votes Down Minimum Airline Seat Size," Fortune, April 9, 2016; James Rosen, "Sen. Marco Rubio seeks end to special refugee status for Cuban immigrants," Miami Herald, April 13, 2016; Will Dobbs-Allsopp, "Senate Will Check Lots of Legislative Boxes Tuesday," Morning Consult, April 18 2016; National Journal Almanac.