



## Transportation/Aviation Update

March 27, 2026

### NEXT WEEK

The House and Senate will be on recess for the next two weeks, returning the week of April 13.

### THIS WEEK

#### House

**Retirement: Rep. Sam Graves.** This week, Representative Sam Graves (R-MO), Chair of the Transportation and Infrastructure committee announced he would not seek re-election this year.

**Floor Votes: Aviation Bills.** On March 23, the full House approved the following bills:

- H.R. 3410, *Supersonic Aviation Modernization Act*. The bill directs FAA to update regulations to allow civil aircraft to fly at supersonic speeds in U.S. airspace, provided the flights do not produce a sonic boom that reaches the ground. The bill would overturn the 1973 FAA ban on supersonic flights over the U.S.
- H.R. 6267, *Aviation Supply Chain Safety and Security Digitization Act of 2025*. The bill directs GAO to study barriers to implementing digital documentation and verification across the aviation supply chain. The study aims to identify ways to modernize FAA processes and reduce the risk of counterfeit or improperly documented aircraft parts entering the system.
- H.R. 6427, *Airport Regulatory Relief Act of 2025*. The bill allows nonprimary airports to use state highway construction standards for airfield pavement projects instead of federal aviation standards.
- H.R. 6460, *Recreational Drone Empowerment Act*. The bill seeks to clarify federal law governing limited recreational small, unmanned aircraft systems (sUAS) operations by specifying where such aircraft can operate within certain classes of airspace.
- H.R. 2247, *Airmen Certificate Accessibility Act*. This bill would allow pilots to present digital copies of required certificates on an electronic device or cloud platform instead of only physical copies.
- H.R. 5663, *ACPAC Modernization Act*. The bill expands membership of the existing Aviation Consumer Protection Advisory Committee to include a ticket representative.

- H.R. 6618, *Wildfire Aerial Response Safety Act*. This bill directs FAA, in consultation with federal partners, to study the effects of drone incursions on aerial wildfire suppression efforts.

**Markup: Airway Safety Legislation.** On March 26, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee voted 62-0 to advance H.R. 7613, the *Airspace Location and Enhanced Risk Transparency (ALERT) Act of 2026 (ALERT Act)*. The updated version of the bill would require civil aircraft that fly in congested airspace, with certain exceptions, be outfitted and operate with “collision prevention technology.

- According to the T&I press release the legislation is a comprehensive package of improvements that respond to the broad scope of safety issues raised by the NTSB’s investigation, and it includes a number of updates based on discussions with the NTSB and other aviation stakeholders since its introduction.” Bill summary is [here](#).
- The substitute amendment, offered by Chairman Graves, would add a key provision from the separate PAPA Act, [H.R. 4146](#), to the ALERT Act. This language is intended to prohibit airports from using ADS-B data to assess user fees on aircraft. An amendment to strike that provision failed on a 27-36 vote.
- Senate Commerce Committee Chair Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) said yesterday that he remains committed to the Senate-passed bill, known as the ROTOR Act.

### Senate

**Floor Vote: FY 2026 DHS Appropriations.** On March 27, the Senate passed on voice vote, the FY 2026 funding for the Department of Homeland Security, minus funding for the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). The House is expected to vote on the DHS funding bill today.

- Senate action followed the President signing an Executive Order directing DHS to pay the TSA employees.

### Department of Transportation

**MARAD: PIDP NOFO.** On March 26, DOT’s Maritime Administration announced \$488.6 million in funding to revitalize American ports, shipyards and maritime capabilities. The press release and link to the NOFO is [here](#).

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