

  
S.L.C.

AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ Calendar No. \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose: To modify the provision relating to the use of unmanned aircraft systems at institutions of higher education.

**IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—114th Cong., 2d Sess.**

**S. 2658**

To amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2016 through 2017, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. MORAN)

Viz:

- 1 Strike section 2145 and insert the following:
- 2 **SEC. 2145. USE OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS AT IN-**
- 3 **STITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**
- 4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the
- 5 date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of
- 6 the Federal Aviation Administration shall establish proce-
- 7 dures and standards, as applicable, to streamline the safe
- 8 operation of unmanned aircraft systems by institutions of
- 9 higher education, including faculty, students, and staff.

1           (b) STANDARDS.—The standards required under sub-  
2 section (a) shall outline risk-based operational parameters  
3 to ensure the safety of the national airspace system and  
4 the uninvolved public that facilitates the use of unmanned  
5 aircraft systems for educational or research purposes.

6           (c) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM APPROVAL.—The  
7 procedures required under subsection (a) shall allow un-  
8 manned aircraft systems operated under this section to be  
9 modified for research purposes without iterative approval  
10 from the Administrator.

11          (d) ADDITIONAL PROCEDURES.—The Administrator  
12 shall establish a procedure to provide for streamlined, risk-  
13 based operational approval for unmanned aircraft systems  
14 operated by institutions of higher education, including fac-  
15 ulty, students, and staff, outside of the parameters or pur-  
16 poses set forth in subsection (b).

17          (e) DEADLINES.—

18           (1) IN GENERAL.—If, by the date that is 270  
19 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
20 Administrator has not set forth standards and pro-  
21 cedures required under subsections (a), (b), and (c),  
22 an institution of higher education may—

23           (A) without specific approval from the  
24 Federal Aviation Administration, operate small  
25 unmanned aircraft at model aircraft fields ap-

1           proved by the Academy of Model Aeronautics  
2           and with the permission of the local club of the  
3           Academy of Model Aeronautics; and

4                   (B) submit to the Federal Aviation Admin-  
5           istration applications for approval of the insti-  
6           tution's designation of one or more outdoor  
7           flight fields.

8           (2) CONSEQUENCE OF FAILURE TO APPROVE.—

9           If the Administrator does not take action with re-  
10          spect to an application submitted under paragraph  
11          (1)(B) within 30 days of the submission of the appli-  
12          cation, the failure to do so shall be treated as ap-  
13          proval of the application.

14          (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15                  (1) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The  
16          term “institution of higher education” has the  
17          meaning given that term by section 101(a) of the  
18          Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

19                  (2) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.—The term  
20          “unmanned aircraft system” has the meaning given  
21          the term in section 44801 of title 49, United States  
22          Code, as added by section 2121 of this Act.

23                  (3) EDUCATIONAL OR RESEARCH PURPOSES.—  
24          The term “educational or research purposes”, with  
25          respect to the operation of an unmanned aircraft

1 system by an institution of higher education, in-  
2 cludes—

3 (A) instruction of students at the institu-  
4 tion;

5 (B) academic or research related use of  
6 unmanned aircraft systems by student organi-  
7 zations recognized by the institution, if such  
8 use has been approved by the institution;

9 (C) activities undertaken by the institution  
10 as part of research projects, including research  
11 projects sponsored by the Federal Government;  
12 and

13 (D) other academic activities at the insti-  
14 tution, including general research, engineering,  
15 and robotics.