

BLACKBURN_6
(MODIFIED)



AMENDMENT NO. _____

Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To establish a research and development program for next generation radio altimeters.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—118th Cong., 1st Sess.

S. _____

To amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2024 through 2028, 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 Mrs. BLACKBURN

Viz:

1 At the appropriate place in title IX, insert the following:
2

3 **SEC. ____ . NEXT GENERATION RADIO ALTIMETERS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the
5 date of enactment of this section, the Administrator, in
6 coordination with the aviation and commercial wireless in-
7 dustries, the National Telecommunications and Informa-
8 tion Administration, the Federal Communications Com-
9 mission, and other relevant government stakeholders, shall
10 carry out a research and development program to assist
11 with the development, testing, and certification of the

1 standards and technology necessary to ensure industry
2 and the FAA can certify and meet the installation require-
3 ments for next generation radio altimeters across all nec-
4 essary aircraft by January 1, 2028.

5 (b) GRANT PROGRAM.—Subject to appropriations,
6 the Administrator may award grants for the purposes of
7 research and development, testing, and other activities
8 necessary to ensure that next generation radio altimeter
9 technology is developed, tested, certified, and installed on
10 necessary aircraft by 2028, including through public-pri-
11 vate partnership grants (which shall include protections
12 for necessary intellectual property with respect to any pri-
13 vate sector entity testing, certifying, or producing next
14 generation radio altimeters under the program carried out
15 under this section) with industry to ensure the accelerated
16 production and installation by January 1, 2028.

17 (c) REVIEW AND REPORT.—Not later than 180 days
18 after the enactment of this section, the Administrator
19 shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress
20 a report on the steps the Administrator has taken as of
21 the date on which such report is submitted and any ac-
22 tions the Administrator plans to take, including as part
23 of the program carried out under this section, to ensure
24 that next generation radio altimeter technology is devel-
25 oped, tested, certified, and installed by 2028.

1 (d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
2 tion shall be construed to apply to efforts to retrofit the
3 existing supply of altimeters in place as of the date of en-
4 actment of this section.