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American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators

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U.S. Congress Passes FAA Reauthorization with Surface Transportation Provisions

The United States Congress has passed legislation ([HR 302](#)) that would reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for five years – the first long-term reauthorization since the last expired in 2015. The bill includes \$1.7 billion in funding for Hurricane Florence relief, authorizations of the Transportation Security Administration and National Transportation Safety Board, and some changes to the Federal Emergency Management Agency. While the legislation clearly has an aviation focus, there are some provisions of specific interest to AAMVA members. Of particular note is Section 563 that provides DOT-approved, third-party access to the National Driver Register for air carriers seeking information (driving safety records) on pilot applicants. Previously, air carriers were required to request access to these records from the chief licensing official of the state of record.

AAMVA also alerts members to Section 1978 that deals with the elimination of background check requirements for a HAZMAT endorsement for those that have a Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC). Previously, TWIC card holders were still required to be vetted independently for their HAZMAT endorsement – a process many felt was redundant and considered an unnecessary administrative expense.

Other sections of note include:

- Section 1969 that requires TSA to establish a surface transportation security advisory committee to make recommendations to TSA on policies, rulemaking, and initiatives on transportation security. TSA is mandated with appointing stakeholders representing each mode of transportation and relevant associations, labor organizations, users of the transportation system, and law enforcement.
- Section 1977 that authorizes the voluntary use of TWIC for security at transportation facilities other than ports.
- Section 1981 that requires DOT to develop a study outlining the feasibility of modifying the security of surface transportation assets through next-generation technologies, credential authentication, and access to advanced passenger vetting systems.
- Section 1982 that provides best practices to secure against vehicle-based attacks.

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Government Affairs Questions

For questions about AAMVA's Government Affairs, please contact Cian Cashin at ccashin@aamva.org



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4401 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 700, Arlington, VA 22203