

AMENDMENT TO RULES COMM. PRINT 117-_____
OFFERED BY MRS. WATSON COLEMAN OF NEW
JERSEY

In the appropriate place in division E, insert the following:

1 **SEC. ____ . SECURING AIR TRAVEL ACT.**

2 (a) SIGNAGE.—Section 44901 of title 49, United
3 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

5 “(m) SIGNAGE REGARDING FIREARMS.—

6 “(1) CHECKPOINT SIGNAGE.—Not later than
7 one year after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall display uniform signage
8 in passenger screening checkpoints to inform individuals at such checkpoints of restrictions regarding
9 the carrying of a firearm in the sterile area of an airport. Such signage shall include visual elements
10 and a concise description of the maximum criminal and civil penalties (with relevant statutory or regulatory citations) for unlawfully carrying a firearm in
11 the sterile area of an airport.
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1 “(2) PLACEMENT.—Signage under paragraph
2 (1) shall be prominently displayed and located in
3 such a manner that it would reasonably be expected
4 to be seen by an individual prior to entering the pas-
5 senger screening checkpoint.

6 “(3) AIRPORTS WITH FREQUENT FIREARM
7 INTERDICTIONS.—Not later than one year after the
8 date of the enactment of this subsection and bienni-
9 ally thereafter, the Administrator of the Transpor-
10 tation Security Administration shall publish a list of
11 not fewer than 25 airports at which firearms were
12 most frequently interdicted at passenger screening
13 checkpoints in the prior two years. If with respect to
14 any such list there are fewer than 25 such airports,
15 such list shall include as many of such airports as
16 are otherwise described in this paragraph.

17 “(4) ADDITIONAL ENHANCED SIGNAGE FOR
18 AIRPORTS WITH FREQUENT FIREARM INTERDIC-
19 TIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of
20 the publication of each list required under paragraph
21 (3), the Administrator of the Transportation Secu-
22 rity Administration shall require each airport in-
23 cluded on the list to install additional enhanced sign-
24 age at all passenger terminal entrances to such air-
25 ports to inform the public and individuals planning

1 to enter a passenger screening checkpoint of the re-
2 strictions regarding the carrying of a firearm in the
3 sterile area of the airport and, as applicable, State,
4 local, territorial, or other jurisdiction-specific restric-
5 tions on carrying firearms in the publicly-accessible
6 areas of the airport. Such additional enhanced sign-
7 age shall be consistent for all airports required to in-
8 stall such additional enhanced signage under this
9 paragraph, except, as the case may be, for descrip-
10 tions of such applicable State, local, territorial, or
11 other jurisdiction-specific restrictions. The Adminis-
12 trator may permit an airport to remove such signage
13 if such airport is not included on a subsequent list.

14 “(5) OUTDATED SIGNAGE.—If any relevant in-
15 formation on signage installed pursuant to this sub-
16 section is rendered inaccurate due to statutory, reg-
17 ulatory, or other changes, the Administrator shall
18 ensure such signage is updated in a timely manner,
19 except this paragraph does not apply in the case of
20 annual inflation adjustments to civil monetary pen-
21 alties.

22 “(6) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

23 “(A) PASSENGER SCREENING CHECK-
24 POINT.—The term ‘passenger screening check-
25 point’ means the designated area at each air-

1 port located in the United States at which the
2 Transportation Security Administration, or an
3 entity authorized by the Administration pursu-
4 ant to section 44920, or other comparable au-
5 thority, provides for the screening of passengers
6 and carry-on baggage.

7 “(B) PASSENGER TERMINAL ENTRANCE.—
8 The term ‘passenger terminal entrance’ means
9 the area at each airport located in the United
10 States where individuals arriving to the airport
11 by means other than a flight first enter the ter-
12 minal or other comparable enclosure containing
13 passenger facilities of the airport located prior
14 to the passenger screening checkpoint.

15 “(C) STERILE AREA.—The term ‘sterile
16 area’ has the meaning given such term in sec-
17 tion 1540.5 of title 49, Code of Federal Regula-
18 tions.”.

19 (b) PUBLIC AWARENESS INITIATIVES.—

20 (1) CAMPAIGN.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—

22 (i) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later
23 than 120 days after the date of the enact-
24 ment of this section, the Administrator of
25 the Transportation Security Administra-

1 tion shall implement a public awareness
2 campaign to inform the public of the po-
3 tential criminal and civil consequences of
4 carrying a firearm in the sterile area of an
5 airport that includes actual examples of
6 the criminal and civil consequences im-
7 posed on individuals who violated such pro-
8 hibition.

9 (ii) PROHIBITION.—Actual examples
10 under clause (i) may not include any per-
11 sonally identifiable information regarding
12 individuals described in such clause.

13 (B) ELEMENTS.—The campaign required
14 under subparagraph (A) shall, at a minimum,
15 involve—

16 (i) the use of Transportation Security
17 Administration websites, social media
18 channels, press releases, and other means
19 of external communication;

20 (ii) the production of audiovisual ma-
21 terials to be distributed via online video
22 sharing platforms;

23 (iii) engagement with external organi-
24 zations, including local and national orga-
25 nizations with memberships that could

1 benefit from information regarding how to
2 lawfully travel with a firearm in checked
3 baggage or, in the case of an authorized
4 law enforcement officer, lawfully enter a
5 sterile area with a firearm;

6 (iv) engagement with press and
7 media, including, to the extent practicable,
8 local press and media in at least those cit-
9 ies that host airports identified biennially
10 pursuant to paragraph (3) of subsection
11 (m) of section 44901 of title 49, United
12 States Code, as amended by subsection (a);
13 and

14 (v) engagement with transportation
15 stakeholders, such as taxi services, public
16 transportation systems, online platforms
17 for ridesharing, air carriers, airport opera-
18 tors, and law enforcement organizations,
19 regarding potential partnerships, including
20 the possibility of integrating into mobile
21 applications and websites used by pas-
22 sengers to reserve ground transportation to
23 the airport, check into flights, and perform
24 other travel-related functions warnings re-
25 garding potential criminal and civil con-

1 sequences of carrying a firearm into the
2 sterile area of an airport.

3 (C) EXISTING EFFORTS.—The campaign
4 required under subparagraph (A) shall supple-
5 ment and not supplant any other related exist-
6 ing campaign.

7 (2) TARGETED ADVERTISING.—

8 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of
9 the Transportation Security Administration
10 may purchase or otherwise place advertisements
11 describing the potential criminal and civil con-
12 sequences of carrying a firearm in the sterile
13 area of an airport or on or about one's person
14 or property that would be accessible in flight,
15 and actual examples of the criminal and civil
16 consequences faced by individuals who violated
17 such prohibition, on websites and in publica-
18 tions (or on or in such other advertising medi-
19 ums as the Administrator determines appro-
20 priate) that target audiences seeking informa-
21 tion concerning—

22 (i) firearms or related activities;

23 (ii) travel, tourism, or related matters;

24 and

1 (iii) such other matters the Adminis-
2 trator determines appropriate.

3 (B) PROHIBITION.—Actual examples under
4 subparagraph (A) may not include any person-
5 ally identifiable information regarding individ-
6 uals described in such subparagraph.

7 (c) FINES.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 449
9 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by add-
10 ing at the end the following new section:

11 **“§ 44930. Civil monetary penalties for certain fire-**
12 **arm-related violations**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after the
14 date of the enactment of this section, the Administrator
15 of the Transportation Security Administration shall estab-
16 lish civil monetary penalty amounts in accordance with
17 subsections (b) and (c), for repeat or egregious violations
18 of subsection (a) of section 1540.111 of title 49, Code of
19 Federal Regulations, relating to the carriage of firearms
20 on or in an individual’s person or accessible property into
21 the sterile area of an airport or onboard an aircraft. Such
22 civil monetary penalty amounts may be subsequently ad-
23 justed by the Administrator.

24 “(b) CIVIL MONETARY PENALTIES FOR REPEAT VIO-
25 LATIONS.—Unless the Administrator identifies mitigating,

1 aggravating, or other factors warranting an alternate
2 amount, the baseline civil monetary penalty amount for
3 a repeat violation of subsection (a) of section 1540.111
4 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, involving a fire-
5 arm shall be—

6 “(1) in the case of an individual with respect to
7 whom such a repeat violation occurs within five
8 years of the date of the final adjudication of a pre-
9 vious such violation—

10 “(A) \$10,000 for any such repeat violation
11 involving an unloaded firearm; and

12 “(B) \$12,500 for any such repeat violation
13 involving a loaded firearm or unloaded firearm
14 with accessible ammunition; and

15 “(2) in the case of an individual with respect to
16 whom such a repeat violation occurs more than five
17 years after the date of the final adjudication of a
18 previous such violation—

19 “(A) \$5,000 for any such repeat violation
20 involving an unloaded firearm; and

21 “(B) \$10,000 for any such repeat violation
22 involving a loaded firearm or unloaded firearm
23 with accessible ammunition.

24 “(c) CIVIL MONETARY PENALTIES FOR EGREGIOUS
25 VIOLATIONS.—Unless the Administrator identifies miti-

1 gating, aggravating, or other factors warranting an alter-
2 nate amount, the baseline civil monetary penalty amount
3 for an intentional or otherwise egregious violation of sub-
4 section (a) of section 1540.111 of title 49, Code of Federal
5 Regulations, involving a firearm shall be—

6 “(1) \$10,000 for any knowing violation in the
7 case of a deliberate attempt to conceal such firearm;
8 and

9 “(2) \$5,000 for any violation which the Admin-
10 istrator of the Transportation Security Administra-
11 tion determines is otherwise egregious, including if
12 the firearm at issue—

13 “(A) is known to the Administrator to—

14 “(i) not contain a serial number when
15 required by law; or

16 “(ii) have been manufactured using
17 additive layer manufacturing (commonly
18 known as ‘3-D printing’); or

19 “(B) is—

20 “(i) of a nature or type that poses a
21 greater risk to aviation security than fire-
22 arms typically identified at passenger
23 screening checkpoints; or

24 “(ii) identified with ammunition that
25 is of a nature or type that poses a greater

1 risk to aviation security than ammunition
2 typically identified at passenger screening
3 checkpoints.

4 “(d) SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.—An individual sub-
5 ject to a civil monetary penalty pursuant to subsection (a)
6 may appeal such penalty amount or seek a reduction in
7 such penalty amount in the case of such individual’s par-
8 ticular violation, including based on mitigating factors (in-
9 cluding in accordance with subsection (e)) pursuant to
10 procedures provided for in the Transportation Security
11 Administration’s security regulations. The Administrator
12 of the Transportation Security Administration may, if the
13 Administrator determines such is appropriate, grant such
14 appeal or reduce such penalty amount, as the case may
15 be.

16 “(e) SELF-DISCLOSURE.—Notwithstanding any other
17 provision of this section, the Administrator of the Trans-
18 portation Security Administration may consider self-dis-
19 closure as a mitigating factor when determining the
20 amount of a civil monetary penalty if an individual, in
21 good faith, voluntarily discloses a violation of subsection
22 (a) of section 1540.111 of title 49, Code of Federal Regu-
23 lations, to the Transportation Security Administration, an
24 entity authorized to conduct screening pursuant to section
25 44920 of title 49, United States Code, a Government rep-

1 representative, an employee or contractor of an airline or air-
2 port, or other appropriate authority, after the individual
3 is present for screening at a passenger screening check-
4 point but prior to the detection of such violation. The Ad-
5 ministrator shall inform appropriate Administration pas-
6 senger screening checkpoint personnel, entities authorized
7 to conduct screening pursuant to section 44920 of title
8 49, United States Code, Government representatives, em-
9 ployees or contractors of an airline or airport, and other
10 appropriate authorities regarding appropriate procedures
11 for handling the self-disclosure of such a violation, includ-
12 ing procedures for contacting law enforcement.

13 “(f) PAYMENT PLANS.—The Administrator of the
14 Transportation Security Administration may provide pay-
15 ment plans for payment of civil monetary penalty amounts
16 under this section for a violation of subsection (a) of sec-
17 tion 1540.111 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations,
18 in the event an individual provides documentation of hard-
19 ship.

20 “(g) USE OF AMOUNTS FROM CIVIL MONETARY
21 PENALTIES.—Subject to further appropriations, the Ad-
22 ministrator shall obligate and expend amounts received
23 from the imposition of civil monetary penalties under this
24 section for repeat or egregious violations of subsection (a)
25 of section 1540.111 of title 49, Code of Federal Regula-

1 tions, involving a firearm for the acquisition and deploy-
2 ment of passenger screening checkpoint technology.

3 “(h) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
4 tion may be interpreted as—

5 “(1) limiting the authority of the Administrator
6 of the Transportation Security Administration to
7 issue civil monetary penalty amounts that are great-
8 er or lesser than those established pursuant to this
9 section based on mitigating, aggravating, or other
10 factors;

11 “(2) limiting the authority of the Administrator
12 to establish civil monetary penalty amounts with re-
13 spect to first-time or non-egregious violations of sec-
14 tion 1540.111 of title 49, Code of Federal Regula-
15 tions; or

16 “(3) instructing the Administrator to establish
17 a civil monetary penalty amount with respect to vio-
18 lations involving unloaded replicas of firearms not
19 capable of discharge.

20 “(i) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘pas-
21 senger screening checkpoint’ means the designated area
22 at each airport located in the United States at which the
23 Transportation Security Administration, or an entity au-
24 thorized by the Administration pursuant to section 44920,

1 or other comparable authority, provides for the screening
2 of passengers and carry-on baggage.”.

3 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sec-
4 tions for chapter 449 of title 49, United States
5 Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating
6 to section 44929 the following new item:

“44930. Civil monetary penalties for certain firearm-related violations.”.

7 (d) PRECHECK ELIGIBILITY.—Section 44919 of title
8 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end
9 the following new subsection:

10 “(m) INELIGIBILITY OF INDIVIDUALS UNLAWFULLY
11 POSSESSING FIREARMS IN RESTRICTED AREAS.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Any unauthorized indi-
13 vidual who possesses a firearm after the individual
14 is present for screening at a passenger screening
15 checkpoint shall be ineligible for expedited security
16 screening and prohibited from participating in the
17 PreCheck Program for a period of time determined
18 by the Administrator of the Transportation Security
19 Administration in the Administrator’s sole discre-
20 tion.

21 “(2) REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION.—The
22 Administrator of the Transportation Security Ad-
23 ministration shall maintain a procedure through
24 which an individual subject to a period of ineligi-
25 bility pursuant to this subsection may petition the

1 Administrator for a reduction in the duration of
2 such period. The Administrator may, if the Adminis-
3 trator determines such is appropriate, reduce such
4 duration. Any such determination shall be in the Ad-
5 ministrator's sole discretion.

6 “(3) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
7 ‘passenger screening checkpoint’ means the des-
8 ignated area at each airport located in the United
9 States at which the Transportation Security Admin-
10 istration, or an entity authorized by the Administra-
11 tion pursuant to section 44920, or other comparable
12 authority, provides for the screening of passengers
13 and carry-on baggage.”.

14 (e) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date
15 of the enactment of this section and biennially thereafter,
16 the Administrator of the Transportation Security Admin-
17 istration shall submit to the appropriate congressional
18 committees a report describing the following:

19 (1) The implementation of the signage require-
20 ment under paragraph (1) of subsection (m) of sec-
21 tion 44901 of title 49, United States Code, and the
22 implementation of the signage requirement under
23 paragraph (4) of such subsection (including a copy
24 of the list of airports required to be produced bienni-

1 ally thereunder), as such section was amended by
2 subsection (a).

3 (2) The public awareness activities of the Ad-
4 ministration relating to firearms, including activities
5 conducted pursuant to subsection (b).

6 (3) The number of violations of subsection (a)
7 of section 1540.111 of title 49, Code of Federal
8 Regulations, and any other incidents involving the
9 unauthorized carriage of a firearm at a passenger
10 screening checkpoint, including information regard-
11 ing which such violations and incidents were com-
12 mitted by individuals while receiving expedited
13 screening, during the period of time covered by each
14 such report.

15 (4) PreCheck Program revocations or denials
16 pursuant to subsection (m) of section 44919, United
17 States Code, as added by this section, during the pe-
18 riod of time covered by each such report.

19 (5) Any new or evolving threats relating to, or
20 efforts to enhance, public area security at airports
21 as such pertains to firearms.

22 (6) Such other matters relating to firearm-re-
23 lated threats to transportation security as the Ad-
24 ministrator determines appropriate.

1 (f) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE RE-
2 VIEW.—Not later than two years after the date of the en-
3 actment of this section, the Comptroller General of the
4 United States shall submit to the appropriate congres-
5 sional committees a review of the Transportation Security
6 Administration’s efforts to—

7 (1) implement the provisions of this section and
8 the amendments made by this section;

9 (2) deter the carriage of firearms and other
10 dangerous items at passenger screening checkpoints
11 through means other than those required by this
12 section and such amendments; and

13 (3) enhance public area security at airports
14 against firearm-related threats.

15 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
17 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
18 mittees” means the Committee on Homeland Secu-
19 rity of the House of Representatives and the Com-
20 mittee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of
21 the Senate.

22 (2) PASSENGER SCREENING CHECKPOINT.—
23 The term “passenger screening checkpoint” means
24 the designated area at each airport located in the
25 United States at which the Transportation Security

1 Administration, or an entity authorized by the Ad-
2 ministration pursuant to section 44920 of title 49,
3 United States Code, or other comparable authority,
4 provides for the screening of passengers and carry-
5 on baggage.

6 (3) STERILE AREA.—The term “sterile area”
7 has the meaning given such term in section 1540.5
8 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations.

