

# **H.R. 2127, The “Securing Expedited Screening Act”**

## **SECTION-BY-SECTION**

**As introduced by**

**Representative Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS), Representative John Katko (R-NY), and**

**Representative Kathleen M. Rice (D-NY)**

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### **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This section provides that the Act may be cited as the “Securing Expedited Screening Act”.

### **SECTION 2. FINDINGS.**

This section sets forth the authorization for and history of expedited aviation security screening. Additionally, it sets forth information about current Transportation Security Administration (TSA) practices regarding expedited screening and recent Government Accountability Office and Department of Homeland Security Inspector General reports that have been critical of certain TSA’s practices.

### **SECTION 3. LIMITATION; PRECHECK OPERATIONS MAINTAINED; ALTERNATE METHODS.**

This section requires TSA, not later than 180 days after enactment, to direct that access to expedited screening be limited to the following groups:

- (1) Passengers who participate in the PreCheck application process or another Department of Homeland Security trusted traveler program;
- (2) Passengers who are allowed to participate in expedited screening pursuant to the ‘Risk Based Security for Members of the Armed Forces Act’, the ‘Helping Heroes Fly Act’, and the ‘Honor Flight Act’;
- (3) Passengers determined by the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration to be members of a population that is known and low risk.
- (4) Passengers who are 75 or older, or 12 years and under and traveling with a parent or guardian who is a participant of the PreCheck program.

In carrying out this provision, the section requires TSA to ensure that expedited screening remain available to passengers at or above the level that existed the day before this enactment.

In the event that TSA wants to provide expedited screening to other passengers through an alternate method, TSA may do so, upon submitting to Congress an independent assessment that is consistent with GAO evaluation design practices and that determines that the method is designed to:

- (1) reliably and effectively identify passengers who likely pose a low risk to the aviation system;
- (2) mitigate the likelihood that a passenger who may pose a security threat receives expedited screening; and
- (3) address known and evolving security threat to the aviation system.

#### **SECTION 4. REPORTING.**

This section directs TSA, not later than three months after enactment and annually thereafter, to provide Congress with information about the composition of the population that receives expedited screening.

#### **SECTION 5. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

This section states that nothing in this Act may be construed as authorizing TSA to reduce or limit the availability of expedited screening, or limit the authority to use technologies and systems such as canines and explosive trace detection as a part of screening operations.