

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3209

To amend title 49, United States Code, to codify requirements for changes in airport sponsorship or operations with respect to airport operating certificates, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 11, 2019

Mr. LEWIS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, to codify requirements for changes in airport sponsorship or operations with respect to airport operating certificates, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Airport Transfer of
5 License Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CHANGES IN AIRPORT SPONSORSHIP OR OPER-**
2 **ATIONS.**

3 Section 44706 of title 49, United States Code, is
4 amended—

5 (1) by redesignating subsection (f) as sub-
6 section (h); and

7 (2) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(f) CHANGE OF AIRPORT SPONSORSHIP OR OPER-
10 ATIONS.—

11 “(1) UNDISPUTED CHANGE OF AIRPORT SPON-
12 SORSHIP OR OPERATIONS.—Except as provided for
13 in paragraph (2), for a proposed transfer of the
14 sponsorship or operations of an airport to a new
15 sponsor or operator, the Administrator shall issue an
16 airport operating certificate to a new sponsor or op-
17 erator if—

18 “(A) the holder of the airport operating
19 certificate for such airport consents to the
20 transfer of sponsorship or operations; and

21 “(B) the new sponsor or operator satisfies
22 all requirements for obtaining a certificate
23 under this section.

24 “(2) DISPUTED CHANGE OF AIRPORT SPONSOR-
25 SHIP OR OPERATIONS.—For a proposed transfer of
26 the sponsorship or operations of an airport to a new

1 sponsor or operator for which the holder of the air-
2 port operating certificate disputes such transfer, the
3 Administrator shall issue an airport operating cer-
4 tificate to the new sponsor if the new sponsor or op-
5 erator satisfies all requirements for obtaining a cer-
6 tificate under this section and the dispute is resolved
7 by—

8 “(A) the issuance of a final, non-appeal-
9 able judicial decision requiring a change of
10 sponsorship or operations;

11 “(B) the issuance of a consent letter be-
12 tween the holder of an airport operating certifi-
13 cate and a new sponsor or operator; or

14 “(C) any other legally definitive means of
15 requiring a change of sponsorship or operations
16 that the Administrator determines appropriate.

17 “(g) REIMBURSEMENT OF AIRPORT INVESTMENT.—
18 After a change in sponsorship or operations under sub-
19 section (f), the new airport sponsor or operator shall reim-
20 burse the previous holder of an airport operating certifi-
21 cate for investments made by such holder that have not
22 been fully recouped as of the change in airport sponsorship
23 or operations and such reimbursement shall be consistent

- 1 with all policies and procedures of the Federal Aviation
- 2 Administration.”.

