

## Aviation Health & Safety Act of 2026

Maryland first responders respond to medical emergencies at Maryland airports, and individuals experiencing medical emergencies are treated at nearby hospitals. It is critical that emergency responders and Maryland hospitals have sufficient information to respond to these emergencies.

Maryland airports have experienced an increased number of flights through the airport with individuals in restraints. The FAA's current evacuation standards mandate that all passengers must be capable of evacuating an aircraft within 90 seconds <sup>1</sup>. This is challenging under any circumstance, but impossible if individuals are in restraints.

Maryland must ensure that flights passing through and refueling in the state are operated in a manner that ensures the health and safety of passengers and crew. Furthermore, Maryland must be prepared to be able to respond to any medical emergency that may occur on any of these flights. The FAA has the authority over many aspects of air travel through Maryland airports. However, Maryland has authority over fixed base operators and aviation service companies, which are the airport based companies who provide the refueling. The requirements of this bill can be implemented through that authority.

### This bill will:

- ✓ Require that flights may not be refueled with individuals in any kind of restraint on board. When individuals in restraints are removed so the airplane can be refueled, they must be in a climate controlled enclosure and must have access to restrooms and water.
- ✓ Require that flight crews shall distribute and collect medical forms from all passengers. The standard form will be developed through MAA regs. The form will ask for any current medical conditions, allergies, and ask for information about medication.
- ✓ Require that these forms must be kept on board and provided to emergency responders and/or Maryland hospitals in a medical emergency. The fixed base operator or aviation service company will note the compliance in their logs.
- ✓ Require documentation of any minors on board and their guardianship information if parents are not also on board. This would be necessary should there be a medical emergency that requires care for this minor in the state of Maryland.
- ✓ Require attorney contact information and pending legal proceedings for all passengers traveling in restraints. This is required because if a person needs medical care, their attorney may need to be contacted.
- ✓ The fixed base operator or aviation service company will be responsible for monthly monitoring reports to the MAA, which will ensure compliance and transparency.

For more information please contact:

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/14/25.803>