

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To provide for the closure of St. Marys Airport,
St. Marys, Georgia.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—114th Cong., 2d Sess.

S. 2943

To authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2017 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. ISAKSON

Viz:

1 At the end of subtitle I of title X, add the following:

2 **SEC. 1097. CLOSURE OF ST. MARYS AIRPORT, ST. MARYS,**

3 **GEORGIA.**

4 (a) **RELEASE OF RESTRICTIONS.**—Subject to sub-

5 section (b), the United States, acting through the Admin-

6 istrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, shall re-

7 lease the City of St. Marys, Georgia, from all restrictions,

8 conditions, and limitations on the use, encumbrance, con-

9 veyance, and closure of the St. Marys Airport, to the ex-

1 tent such restrictions, conditions, and limitations are en-
2 forceable by the Administrator.

3 (b) REQUIREMENTS FOR RELEASE OF RESTRIC-
4 TIONS.—The Administrator shall execute the release
5 under subsection (a) once all of the following occurs:

6 (1) The Secretary of the Navy transfers to the
7 Georgia Department of Transportation the amounts
8 described in subsection (c) and requires as an en-
9 forceable condition on such transfer that all funds
10 transferred shall be used only for airport develop-
11 ment (as defined in section 47102 of title 49, United
12 States Code) of a regional airport in Georgia, con-
13 sistent with planning efforts conducted by the Ad-
14 ministrator and the Georgia Department of Trans-
15 portation.

16 (2) The City of St. Marys, for consideration as
17 provided for in this section, grants to the United
18 States, under the administrative jurisdiction of the
19 Secretary, a restrictive use easement in the real
20 property used for the St. Marys Airport, as deter-
21 mined acceptable by the Secretary, under such terms
22 and conditions that the Secretary considers nec-
23 essary to protect the interests of the United States
24 and prohibiting the future use of such property for
25 all aviation-related purposes and any other purposes

1 deemed by the Secretary to be incompatible with the
2 operations, functions, and missions of Naval Sub-
3 marine Base, Kings Bay, Georgia.

4 (3) The Secretary obtains an appraisal to deter-
5 mine the fair market value of the real property used
6 for the St. Marys Airport in the manner described
7 in subsection (c)(1).

8 (4) The Administrator fulfills the obligations
9 under the National Environmental Policy Act of
10 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) in connection with
11 the release under subsection (a). In carrying out
12 such obligations—

13 (A) the Administrator shall not assume or
14 consider any potential or proposed future rede-
15 velopment of the current St. Marys airport
16 property;

17 (B) any potential new regional airport in
18 Georgia shall be deemed to be not connected
19 with the release noted in subsection (a) nor the
20 closure of St. Marys Airport; and

21 (C) any environmental review under the
22 National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42
23 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) for a potential regional
24 airport in Georgia shall be considered through
25 an environmental review process separate and

1 apart from the environmental review made a
2 condition of release by this section.

3 (5) The Administrator fulfills the obligations
4 under sections 47107(h) and 46319 of title 49,
5 United States Code.

6 (6) Any actions required under part 157 of title
7 14, Code of Federal Regulations, are carried out to
8 the satisfaction of the Administrator.

9 (c) TRANSFER OF AMOUNTS DESCRIBED.—The
10 amounts described in this subsection are the following:

11 (1) An amount equal to the fair market value
12 of the real property of the St. Marys Airport, as de-
13 termined by the Secretary and concurred in by the
14 Administrator, based on an appraisal report and
15 title documentation that—

16 (A) is prepared or adopted by the Sec-
17 retary, and concurred in by the Administrator,
18 not more than 180 days prior to the transfer
19 described in subsection (b)(1); and

20 (B) meets all requirements of Federal law
21 and the appraisal and documentation standards
22 applicable to the acquisition and disposal of real
23 property interests of the United States.

24 (2) An amount equal to the unamortized por-
25 tion of any Federal development grants (including

1 grants available under a State block grant program
2 established pursuant to section 47128 of title 49,
3 United States Code), other than used for the acqui-
4 sition of land, paid to the City of St. Marys for use
5 as the St. Marys Airport.

6 (3) An amount equal to the airport revenues re-
7 maining in the airport account for the St. Marys
8 Airport as of the date of the enactment of this Act
9 and as otherwise due to or received by the City of
10 St. Marys after such date of enactment pursuant to
11 sections 47107(b) and 47133 of title 49, United
12 States Code.

13 (d) AUTHORIZATION FOR TRANSFER OF FUNDS.—
14 Using funds available to the Department of the Navy for
15 operation and maintenance, the Secretary may pay the
16 amounts described in subsection (c) to the Georgia De-
17 partment of Transportation, conditioned as described in
18 subsection (b)(1).

19 (e) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—

20 (1) SURVEY.—The exact acreage and legal de-
21 scription of St. Marys Airport shall be determined
22 by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary and con-
23 curred in by the Administrator.

24 (2) PLANNING OF REGIONAL AIRPORT.—Any
25 planning effort for the development of a regional air-

1 port in southeast Georgia shall be conducted in co-
2 ordination with the Secretary, and shall ensure that
3 any such regional airport does not interfere with the
4 operations, functions, and missions of Naval Sub-
5 marine Base, Kings Bay, Georgia. The determina-
6 tion of the Secretary shall be final as to whether the
7 operations of a new regional airport in southeast
8 Georgia would interfere with such military oper-
9 ations.