

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1151

AN ACT

To direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to obtain observer status for Taiwan at the triennial International Civil Aviation Organization Assembly, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. CONCERNING THE PARTICIPATION OF TAIWAN**
2 **IN THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION OR-**
3 **GANIZATION.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
5 ings:

6 (1) Safe, secure, and economical international
7 air navigation and transport is important to every
8 citizen of the world, and safe skies are ensured
9 through uniform aviation standards, harmonization
10 of security protocols, and expeditious dissemination
11 of information regarding new regulations and other
12 relevant matters.

13 (2) Direct and unobstructed participation in
14 international civil aviation forums and programs is
15 beneficial for all nations and their civil aviation au-
16 thorities. Civil aviation is vital to all due to the
17 international transit and commerce it makes pos-
18 sible, but must also be closely regulated due to the
19 possible use of aircraft as weapons of mass destruc-
20 tion or to transport biological, chemical, and nuclear
21 weapons or other dangerous materials.

22 (3) The Convention on International Civil Avia-
23 tion, signed in Chicago, Illinois, on December 7,
24 1944, and entered into force April 4, 1947, estab-
25 lished the International Civil Aviation Organization
26 (ICAO), stating “The aims and objectives of the Or-

1 organization are to develop the principles and tech-
2 niques of international air navigation and to foster
3 the planning and development of international air
4 transport so as to . . . meet the needs of the peoples
5 of the world for safe, regular, efficient and economi-
6 cal air transport.”.

7 (4) The terrorist attacks of September 11,
8 2001, demonstrated that the global civil aviation
9 network is subject to vulnerabilities that can be ex-
10 ploited in one country to harm another. The ability
11 of civil aviation authorities to coordinate, preempt
12 and act swiftly and in unison is an essential element
13 of crisis prevention and response.

14 (5) Following the terrorist attacks of September
15 11, 2001, the ICAO convened a high-level Ministe-
16 rial Conference on Aviation Security that endorsed a
17 global strategy for strengthening aviation security
18 worldwide and issued a public declaration that “a
19 uniform approach in a global system is essential to
20 ensure aviation security throughout the world and
21 that deficiencies in any part of the system constitute
22 a threat to the entire global system,” and that there
23 should be a commitment to “foster international co-
24 operation in the field of aviation security and har-
25 monize the implementation of security measures”.

1 (6) The Taipei Flight Information Region,
2 under the jurisdiction of Taiwan, covers 180,000
3 square nautical miles of airspace and provides air
4 traffic control services to over 1.2 million flights an-
5 nually, with the Taiwan Taoyuan International Air-
6 port recognized as the 10th and 19th largest airport
7 by international cargo volume and number of inter-
8 national passengers, respectively in 2011.

9 (7) Despite the established international con-
10 sensus regarding a uniform approach to aviation se-
11 curity that fosters international cooperation, exclu-
12 sion from the ICAO since 1971 has impeded the ef-
13 forts of the Government of Taiwan to maintain civil
14 aviation practices that comport with evolving inter-
15 national standards, due to its inability to contact the
16 ICAO for up-to-date information on aviation stand-
17 ards and norms, secure amendments to the organi-
18 zation's regulations in a timely manner, obtain suffi-
19 cient and timely information needed to prepare for
20 the implementation of new systems and procedures
21 set forth by the ICAO, receive technical assistance
22 in implementing new regulations, and participate in
23 technical and academic seminars hosted by the
24 ICAO.

1 (8) On October 8, 2010, the Department of
2 State praised the 37th ICAO Assembly on its adop-
3 tion of a Declaration on Aviation Security, but noted
4 that “because every airport offers a potential entry
5 point into this global system, every nation faces the
6 threat from gaps in aviation security throughout the
7 world—and all nations must share the responsibility
8 for securing that system”.

9 (9) On October 2, 2012, Taiwan became the
10 37th participant to join the United States Visa
11 Waiver program, which is expected to stimulate
12 tourism and commerce that will rely increasingly on
13 international commercial aviation.

14 (10) The Government of Taiwan’s exclusion
15 from the ICAO constitutes a serious gap in global
16 standards that should be addressed at the earliest
17 opportunity in advance of the 38th ICAO Assembly
18 in September 2013.

19 (11) The Federal Aviation Administration and
20 its counterpart agencies in Taiwan have enjoyed
21 close collaboration on a wide range of issues related
22 to innovation and technology, civil engineering, safe-
23 ty and security, and navigation.

1 (12) The ICAO has allowed a wide range of ob-
2 servers to participate in the activities of the organi-
3 zation.

4 (13) The United States, in the 1994 Taiwan
5 Policy Review, declared its intention to support Tai-
6 wan's participation in appropriate international or-
7 ganizations and has consistently reiterated that sup-
8 port.

9 (14) Senate Concurrent Resolution 17, agreed
10 to on September 11, 2012, affirmed the sense of
11 Congress that—

12 (A) meaningful participation by the Gov-
13 ernment of Taiwan as an observer in the meet-
14 ings and activities of the ICAO will contribute
15 both to the fulfillment of the ICAO's over-
16 arching mission and to the success of a global
17 strategy to address aviation security threats
18 based on effective international cooperation;
19 and

20 (B) the United States Government should
21 take a leading role in garnering international
22 support for the granting of observer status to
23 Taiwan in the ICAO.

24 (15) Following the enactment of Public Law
25 108–235, a law authorizing the Secretary of State to

1 initiate and implement a plan to endorse and obtain
2 observer status for Taiwan at the annual summit of
3 the World Health Assembly and subsequent advoca-
4 cy by the United States, Taiwan was granted ob-
5 server status to the World Health Assembly for four
6 consecutive years since 2009. Both prior to and in
7 its capacity as an observer, Taiwan has contributed
8 significantly to the international community's collec-
9 tive efforts in pandemic control, monitoring, early
10 warning, and other related matters.

11 (16) ICAO rules and existing practices allow for
12 the meaningful participation of non-contracting
13 countries as well as other bodies in its meetings and
14 activities through granting of observer status.

15 (b) TAIWAN'S PARTICIPATION AT ICAO.—The Sec-
16 retary of State shall—

17 (1) develop a strategy to obtain observer status
18 for Taiwan at the triennial ICAO Assembly—next
19 held in September 2013 in Montreal, Canada—and
20 other related meetings, activities, and mechanisms
21 thereafter; and

22 (2) instruct the United States Mission to the
23 ICAO to officially request observer status for Tai-
24 wan at the triennial ICAO Assembly and other re-
25 lated meetings, activities, and mechanisms thereafter

1 and to actively urge ICAO member states to support
2 such observer status and participation for Taiwan.

3 (c) REPORT CONCERNING OBSERVER STATUS FOR
4 TAIWAN AT THE ICAO ASSEMBLY.—Not later than 30
5 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
6 retary of State shall submit to Congress a report, in un-
7 classified form, describing the United States strategy to
8 endorse and obtain observer status for Taiwan at the tri-
9 ennial ICAO Assembly and at subsequent ICAO Assem-
10 blies and at other related meetings, activities, and mecha-
11 nisms thereafter. The report shall include the following:

12 (1) A description of the efforts the Secretary of
13 State has made to encourage ICAO member states
14 to promote Taiwan’s bid to obtain observer status.

15 (2) The steps the Secretary of State will take
16 to endorse and obtain observer status for Taiwan in
17 ICAO and at other related meetings, activities, and
18 mechanisms thereafter.

Passed the House of Representatives June 18, 2013.

Attest:

Clerk.

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