



Considerations Regarding Sen. Blumenthal's Proposed Amendment to FAA Reauthorization Bill

Sen. John Thune (R – S. Dakota) is the lead sponsor of the bipartisan Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act of 2016 (the "FAA Reauthorization Bill"), which is currently being considered in the Senate. Last week, Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D - Connecticut) proposed an amendment to the FAA Reauthorization bill that would direct, among others, the Director of the FAA to "expand the rule to prohibit the carrying of battery-powered portable electronic smoking devices in checked baggage and in carry-on baggage."

Here is What You Need to Know Now:

- Sen. Blumenthal has been trying to garner support for this amendment for some time over the past year, yet it was not included in the underlying bill when it was reported from Committee.
- It is one of more than 50 amendments that have been proposed on the FAA Reauthorization Bill.
- Senators are proposing so many amendments to the FAA Reauthorization Bill because it is one of very few opportunities to pass legislation this year.
- Senate GOP Leadership will determine on which of these 50+ amendments a vote will be taken; many will not be allowed a vote.
- Decisions will be made by leadership on what amendments to accept by Wednesday or Thursday this week.

What VTA is Doing:

- VTA's government affairs team in D.C. has been monitoring the proposed amendment for some time.
- VTA's team has been in regular contact with Senate leadership on this issue.
- VTA's team has been in contact with the FAA Reauthorization Bill sponsor on this issue.

What's Next:

- More meetings early this week to demonstrate that the Blumenthal amendment is not worthy of being heard.
- We will update you as soon as we determine if the amendment will or will not be considered.
- If necessary, we will provide information on whom you need to contact and what you need to say via our call to action portal.

A Note on Calls to Action:

- Our vaping community is unique because of its willingness to act when called upon; we value that commitment.
- We believe that it is crucial that we raise our voices with the right message at the right time.
- Senators and Representatives are bombarded by calls on numerous bills every single day.
- Premature calls to action can be counter-productive for at least two reasons:
 - They bring additional attention to an issue which actually galvanizes the opposition and brings them out.
 - They burden elected officials before they are even presented with a bill or amendment.
- It is important that we ask our elected officials to act when they have something on which they can act.

Full text and related links: [SA 3547](#). Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment [SA 3464](#) submitted by Mr. Thune (for himself and Mr. Nelson) to the bill [H.R. 636](#), to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend increased expensing limitations, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows: At the end of title V, add the following: SEC. 5032. REGULATIONS RELATING TO E-CIGARETTES. (a) In General.--Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration shall, in coordination and consultation with the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration-- (1) finalize the interim final rule of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration issued October 30, 2015, pertaining to e-cigarettes; and (2) expand that rule to prohibit the carrying of battery- powered portable electronic smoking devices in checked baggage and in carry-on baggage. (b) Definition.--In this section, the term "battery- powered portable electronic smoking devices" means e- cigarettes, e-cigs, e-cigars, e-pipes, e-hookahs, personal vaporizers, and electronic nicotine delivery systems.

If you are interested in learning more, please email us at guidance@vaportechnology.org