

Government Orders

explore methods of increasing federal-provincial co-operation in preparing and enforcing zoning regulations on lands surrounding airports.

Height zoning around aerodromes comes within the exclusive power of the federal government since it relates to aviation safety while the provinces have the authority to zone such areas for other purposes. Additionally, zoning procedures under the existing Aeronautics Act are more complicated and expensive than those followed by many provinces.

This amendment establishes a system whereby provincial zoning authorities will be able to make height zoning regulations apply to airports at a time and in a manner that will be in accordance with other zoning regulations applying to the area.

If the local authority does not wish to make such an agreement, it is not obligated to do so and the airport may eventually be zoned by the federal government if it comes within zoning policies.

Bill C-5 also proposes amendments to the Aeronautics Act to allow a more expeditious response to urgent safety recommendations.

Occasionally, a body investigating an aviation accident or incident will make a recommendation to the Minister of Transport that requires immediate implementation in the interests of aviation safety.

A new provision being added to the act will allow the minister to make interim orders that will give these recommendations an immediate mandatory effect, while the formal regulation is undergoing the normal process. The interim order will remain in effect until the regulation is completed, or for a maximum of two years.

Another provision of the bill we now have before us will give the minister a new power in the act to withhold, suspend or cancel a Canadian aviation document where, in the minister's opinion, the past record of the document holder justifies this action. This would also apply to any principal of a company which holds the document. This will enable the minister to deal appropriately with situations where an operator, whose certificate has been cancelled, attempts to continue his or her operation by starting a new company or by buying an existing one.

If the minister suspends or cancels a document on this basis, the decision can be reviewed by the Civil Aviation Tribunal.

Two new provisions expanding extraterritorial jurisdiction to the act are being added. The first will make all the provisions of the Aeronautics Act apply, as appropriate, to passengers as well as crew members on board Canadian aircraft operating outside Canada. For example, requiring the use of seatbelts.

The second provision will authorize the Governor in Council to make regulations implementing obligations that Canada has already accepted in principle in ratifying Article 3 "BIS" of what is known as the Chicago Convention, for instance, setting out requirements for aircraft that may be intercepted while over-flying another country's territory.

Last, but not least, Bill C-5, provides for amendments to the security provisions in the act to implement the system of establishing security measures to be carried out by air carriers and airport operators. Instead of security measures being "approved" by the minister, specific ministerial orders will establish those measures that must be carried out by the air carriers. This system will overcome certain legal objections to the earlier method.

Mr. Speaker, I have given only a broad picture of the amendments that Bill C-5 proposes to make to the Aeronautics Act. I look forward to discussing all these facets of the bill with my colleagues when we reach the committee stage.

I am confident that all hon. members will find these amendments worthy of their attention and allow us to bring this most helpful bill through the legislative process in an expeditious manner.

After consultation, I would like to move:

That Bill C-5, an act to amend the Aeronautics Act and to amend an act to amend the Aeronautics Act, be referred, after second reading, to the Standing Committee on Transport.

[*Translation*]

The Acting Speaker (Mr. DeBlois): The House has heard the motion moved by the hon. minister. All hon. members opposed to the motion please stand.