



JOIN US!

Welcome from the Chair



Jim Hopkins
Chairman of the Board

The Monthly Flight Plan will deliver news to you, our investors and members, on a regular basis. It is also an opportunity for you to provide news to us for publication by emailing info@thevaba.org.

As we near Election Day, VABA staff is preparing for the 2024 General Assembly Session. They are poised to welcome new members of the General Assembly and promote areas identified as of critical importance to our industry:

The VABA will support aviation, aerospace and advanced air mobility in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The VABA will support our industry partners by advocating for the following policies:

- STEM Workforce development programs focusing on aviation and aerospace personnel
- Laws, policy, and funding to train more commercial pilots and aviation maintenance technicians
- Laws, policy, and funding to support the development of UAS technology in Virginia
- Laws, policy, and funding to support the development of Advanced Air Mobility technology in Virginia
- Initiatives to grow the NASA Wallops launch facility

The article below lays out priority areas for The VABA's board consideration. We look forward to your feedback. We are stronger together.

Finally, I invite you to join us for the best-attended Virginia aviation and aerospace event of the year brought to you by the VABA: the **Aviation, Aerospace and Advanced Air Mobility Legislative Reception, February 7, 2024**. Main Street Station is the place to be for out-of-this-world aviation, aerospace and advanced air mobility exhibits & demonstrations. Sponsorships are now available, and registration is open. We look forward to you joining us.

As always, please contact us with improvements. We welcome your feedback by emailing info@thevaba.org.



Our Mission

The VABA is a 501(c)6 non-profit organization committed to represent, develop, and support all aviation businesses in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Since its inception, the VABA has provided a unified voice for businesses involved in aviation in general.

Join VABA

Click [HERE](#) to become a member.

Connect with us

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2024 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The VABA has set the following legislative priorities for the 2024 General Assembly Session:

Sustainable Aviation Fuel
The use of SAF is increasing, led by a tax credit in California. More airlines and aviation companies would pump SAF if its costs were in line with current non-sustainable fuels. The VABA looks forward to working with an industry coalition ultimately to increasing the use of SAF in Virginia

Fire Suppressants
Certain aircraft hangars are required to have foam fire suppression systems. To date, these very expensive systems have never been used to extinguish a fire in a hangar. They may go off erroneously, and when they do, they cause a total loss in the aircraft in the hangar. The VABA will support legislation modernizing insurance laws to ensure that fire suppression is compatible with the true nature of aviation safety.

Budget Amendment on Pilot Training
The VABA will support budget amendments directing more funding at the Virginia Space Grant Consortium to increase the number of student pilots entering the pipeline of becoming commercial pilots. Current programs provide assistance in supporting students through ground school and first solo flight; Virginia needs to focus on incenting more pilots through the flight instructor rating so they can then build hours to commercial ratings.

Budget Amendment on Mechanic Training
Aviation Maintenance Technicians (AMT's) are critical across aviation, aerospace and advanced air mobility in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The VABA will support budget amendments to establish another aviation maintenance technician program at a Virginia community college. Currently Blue Ridge Community College has an AMT program and Danville Community College is opening a program: the VABA sees a great need for a third and even fourth program in Virginia's community college system to train the AMT's necessary to support the growing aviation, aerospace and AAM industries.

DOAV: NEWS YOU CAN USE



Greg Campbell, Director
VA Department of Aviation

For more than 95 years, aviation has been a key component of the Commonwealth's multi-modal transportation system. With 65 public-use airports in Virginia – none of which is owned by the state – millions of people, and billions of dollars in goods and services are able to move across the country and around the world. Our airports are a huge economic engine in Virginia. The aviation industry employs more than 146,000 people and contributes more than \$22.9 billion annually to the Commonwealth's economy.

The 35 employees of the Virginia Department of Aviation work tirelessly to ensure the aviation system is among the best in the nation. Our Airport Services Division helps maintain one of the country's most comprehensive and advanced statewide aviation systems.

To support the continuing growth and operation of this system, the Virginia Aviation Board (VAB) has developed funding programs to assist sponsors of public-use airports with a variety of improvement activities ranging from planning to construction. Our Communications & Education Division inspires the next generation of aviation professionals through the delivery of aviation education programs, scholarships and special events. This Division is also responsible for registering aircraft and providing funding for airports through the collection of the Aircraft Sales & Use Tax. Our Flight Operations & Safety Division provides executive flight services to Commonwealth leadership and maintains a number of small aircraft. The Administration and Finance Division supports the agency's operations through procurement, human resources, fiscal operations, and information technology.

The Virginia Department of Aviation has been a proud partner of the Virginia Aviation Business Association for many years, and we look forward to growing our partnership through new opportunities, such as this newsletter. I look forward to providing more information and program updates in future issues of the VABA newsletter.

DCA PERIMETER RULE

DCA Reagan National Perimeter Rules Continues to be up for Debate

From MWAA.com

The federally imposed perimeter rule is a singular rule that restricts the radius of inbound and outbound nonstop flights to DCA to a 1,250 mile radius, just about the distance to western Kansas from Washington, D.C. The airport is also one of five U.S. airports that is restricted by a high density rule to manage congestion.

Congress considered proposals to reverse the perimeter rule just before the August recess. MWAA calls the DCA Reagan runway America's busiest runway and therefore is opposed to changing the rule to allow flights from the western half of the country. It would require Congressional action to allow up to 56 flights a day as one Congressional proposal called for.

Read more [HERE](#).

FAA REAUTHORIZATION BILL

Congress Begins Overhaul of Civil Aviation Policy Amidst Turbulent Summer Travel Season and Increased Demands from Nascent Industry Stakeholders

By Rod Hall, Nelson Mullins

The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization bill is a crucial piece of legislation that affects the safety and efficiency of air travel in the United States. It is an important, multi-year tool for Congress to ensure that the FAA is adequately funded and equipped to meet the challenges of an evolving aviation industry.

The FAA Reauthorization bill typically covers a wide range of aviation-related issues, including safety regulations, consumer protections, airport modernization, and research and development programs. It also sets policies and regulations for the use of unmanned aircraft systems (drones) and other nascent technologies in commercial and private applications.

As the authorization for the FAA is due to expire on Sept. 30, 2023, Congress is preparing to reauthorize the agency, with bipartisan support. The FAA was last reauthorized in 2018.

Read more [HERE](#).

IN-FLIGHT READING



Competition for employees at all-time high in aviation industry

From General Aviation News

Competition between companies in the aviation industry is at an all-time high to attract talent, according to officials with JSfirm.com, an online job website dedicated to aviation.

On opening day of the 2023 **National Business Aviation Association** convention, JSfirm officials reported that the number of companies advertising open positions is up 19.7% with total jobs on the rise 16.7% so far this year, compared to 2022.

Read more [HERE](#).