

public hearing under this subchapter, the Secretary has the same authority the Secretary has under section 46104 of this title. An action of the Secretary in exercising that authority is governed by the procedures specified in section 46104 and shall be enforced as provided in section 46104.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1275.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
47122(a)	49 App.:2218(a).	Sept. 3, 1982, Pub. L. 97-248, §519(a), 96 Stat. 694; Dec. 30, 1987, Pub. L. 100-223, §112(1), 101 Stat. 1504.
47122(b)	49 App.:1354(c) (related to Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1982).	Aug. 23, 1958, Pub. L. 85-726, §313(c) (related to Airport and Airway Improvement Act of 1982), 72 Stat. 753; Sept. 3, 1982, Pub. L. 97-248, §524(a)(2), 96 Stat. 696.

Subsection (a) is substituted for 49 App.:2218(a) to eliminate unnecessary words.

§ 47123. Nondiscrimination

The Secretary of Transportation shall take affirmative action to ensure that an individual is not excluded because of race, creed, color, national origin, or sex from participating in an activity carried out with money received under a grant under this subchapter. The Secretary shall prescribe regulations necessary to carry out this section. The regulations shall be similar to those in effect under title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.). This section is in addition to title VI of the Act.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1275.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
47123	49 App.:2219.	Sept. 3, 1982, Pub. L. 97-248, §520, 96 Stat. 694.

The words “as the Secretary deems” and “the purposes of” are omitted as surplus. The words “The regulations shall be similar to those in effect under” are substituted for “and may enforce this section, and any rules promulgated under this section, through agency and department provisions and rules which shall be similar to those established and in effect under” for clarity and to eliminate unnecessary words and because “rules” and “regulations” are synonymous. The words “The provisions of . . . and not in lieu of the provisions of” are omitted as surplus. The word “is” is substituted for “shall be considered to be” to eliminate unnecessary words.

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The Civil Rights Act of 1964, referred to in text, is Pub. L. 88-352, July 2, 1964, 78 Stat. 241, as amended. Title VI of the Act is classified generally to subchapter V (§2000d et seq.) of chapter 21 of Title 42, The Public Health and Welfare. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 2000a of Title 42 and Tables.

§ 47124. Agreements for State and local operation of airport facilities

(a) GOVERNMENT RELIEF FROM LIABILITY.—The Secretary of Transportation shall ensure that an

agreement under this subchapter with a qualified entity (as determined by the Secretary), State, or a political subdivision of a State to allow the entity, State, or subdivision to operate an airport facility relieves the United States Government from any liability arising out of, or related to, acts or omissions of employees of the entity, State, or subdivision in operating the airport facility.

(b) AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL CONTRACT PROGRAM.—

(1) CONTRACT TOWER PROGRAM.—

(A) CONTINUATION.—The Secretary shall continue the low activity (Visual Flight Rules) level I air traffic control tower contract program established under subsection (a) of this section for towers existing on December 30, 1987, and extend the program to other towers as practicable.

(B) SPECIAL RULE.—If the Secretary determines that a tower already operating under the program continued under this paragraph has a benefit-to-cost ratio of less than 1.0, the airport sponsor or State or local government having jurisdiction over the airport shall not be required to pay the portion of the costs that exceeds the benefit for a period of 18 months after such determination is made.

(C) USE OF EXCESS FUNDS.—If the Secretary finds that all or part of an amount made available to carry out the program continued under this paragraph is not required during a fiscal year, the Secretary may use, during such fiscal year, the amount not so required to carry out the program established under paragraph (3).

(2) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may make a contract with a qualified entity (as determined by the Secretary) or, on a sole source basis, with a State or a political subdivision of a State to allow the entity, State, or subdivision to operate an airport traffic control tower classified as a level I (Visual Flight Rules) tower if the Secretary decides that the entity, State, or subdivision has the capability to comply with the requirements of this paragraph. The contract shall require that the entity, State, or subdivision comply with applicable safety regulations in operating the facility and with applicable competition requirements in making a subcontract to perform work to carry out the contract.

(3) CONTRACT AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER PROGRAM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a program to contract for air traffic control services at nonapproach control towers, as defined by the Secretary, that do not qualify for the contract tower program established under subsection (a) and continued under paragraph (1) (in this paragraph referred to as the “Contract Tower Program”).

(B) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—In carrying out the program, the Secretary shall—

(i) utilize for purposes of cost-benefit analyses, current, actual, site-specific data, forecast estimates, or airport master plan data provided by a facility owner or operator and verified by the Secretary; and

(ii) approve for participation only facilities willing to fund a pro rata share of the operating costs of the air traffic control tower to achieve a 1-to-1 benefit-to-cost ratio using actual site-specific contract tower operating costs in any case in which there is an operating air traffic control tower, as required for eligibility under the Contract Tower Program.

(C) PRIORITY.—In selecting facilities to participate in the program, the Secretary shall give priority to the following facilities:

(i) Air traffic control towers that are participating in the Contract Tower Program but have been notified that they will be terminated from such program because the Secretary has determined that the benefit-to-cost ratio for their continuation in such program is less than 1.0.

(ii) Air traffic control towers that the Secretary determines have a benefit-to-cost ratio of at least .50.

(iii) Air traffic control towers of the Federal Aviation Administration that are closed as a result of the air traffic controllers strike in 1981.

(iv) Air traffic control towers located at airports or points at which an air carrier is receiving compensation under the essential air service program under this chapter.

(v) Air traffic control towers located at airports that are prepared to assume partial responsibility for maintenance costs.

(vi) Air traffic control towers located at airports with safety or operational problems related to topography, weather, runway configuration, or mix of aircraft.

(vii) Air traffic control towers located at an airport at which the community has been operating the tower at its own expense.

(D) COSTS EXCEEDING BENEFITS.—If the costs of operating an air traffic tower under the program exceed the benefits, the airport sponsor or State or local government having jurisdiction over the airport shall pay the portion of the costs that exceed such benefit, with the maximum allowable local cost share capped at 20 percent.

(E) FUNDING.—Of the amounts appropriated pursuant to section 106(k)(1), not more than \$10,350,000 for each of fiscal years 2012 through 2015 may be used to carry out this paragraph.

(F) USE OF EXCESS FUNDS.—If the Secretary finds that all or part of an amount made available under this paragraph is not required during a fiscal year, the Secretary may use, during such fiscal year, the amount not so required to carry out the program continued under paragraph (1).

(4) CONSTRUCTION OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWERS.—

(A) GRANTS.—The Secretary may provide grants to a sponsor of—

(i) a primary airport—

(I) from amounts made available under sections 47114(c)(1) and 47114(c)(2) for the construction or improvement of a non-

approach control tower, as defined by the Secretary, and for the acquisition and installation of air traffic control, communications, and related equipment to be used in that tower;

(II) from amounts made available under sections 47114(c)(1) and 47114(c)(2) for reimbursement for the cost of construction or improvement of a non-approach control tower, as defined by the Secretary, incurred after October 1, 1996, if the sponsor complied with the requirements of sections 47107(e), 47112(b), and 47112(c) in constructing or improving that tower; and

(III) from amounts made available under sections 47114(c)(1) and 47114(c)(2) for reimbursement for the cost of acquiring and installing in that tower air traffic control, communications, and related equipment that was acquired or installed after October 1, 1996; and

(ii) a public-use airport that is not a primary airport—

(I) from amounts made available under sections 47114(c)(2) and 47114(d) for the construction or improvement of a non-approach control tower, as defined by the Secretary, and for the acquisition and installation of air traffic control, communications, and related equipment to be used in that tower;

(II) from amounts made available under sections 47114(c)(2) and 47114(d)(3)(A) for reimbursement for the cost of construction or improvement of a nonapproach control tower, as defined by the Secretary, incurred after October 1, 1996, if the sponsor complied with the requirements of sections 47107(e), 47112(b), and 47112(c) in constructing or improving that tower; and

(III) from amounts made available under sections 47114(c)(2) and 47114(d)(3)(A) for reimbursement for the cost of acquiring and installing in that tower air traffic control, communications, and related equipment that was acquired or installed after October 1, 1996.

(B) ELIGIBILITY.—An airport sponsor shall be eligible for a grant under this paragraph only if—

(i)(I) the sponsor is a participant in the Federal Aviation Administration contract tower program established under subsection (a) and continued under paragraph (1) or the pilot program established under paragraph (3); or

(II) construction of a nonapproach control tower would qualify the sponsor to be eligible to participate in such program;

(ii) the sponsor certifies that it will pay not less than 10 percent of the cost of the activities for which the sponsor is receiving assistance under this paragraph;

(iii) the Secretary affirmatively accepts the proposed contract tower into a contract tower program under this section and certifies that the Secretary will seek

future appropriations to pay the Federal Aviation Administration's cost of the contract to operate the tower to be constructed under this paragraph;

(iv) the sponsor certifies that it will pay its share of the cost of the contract to operate the tower to be constructed under this paragraph; and

(v) in the case of a tower to be constructed under this paragraph from amounts made available under section 47114(d)(2) or 47114(d)(3)(B), the Secretary certifies that—

(I) the Federal Aviation Administration has consulted the State within the borders of which the tower is to be constructed and the State supports the construction of the tower as part of its State airport capital plan; and

(II) the selection of the tower for funding is based on objective criteria.

(C) LIMITATION ON FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of construction of a nonapproach control tower under this paragraph may not exceed \$2,000,000.

(c) SAFETY AUDITS.—The Secretary shall establish uniform standards and requirements for regular safety assessments of air traffic control towers that receive funding under this section.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1276; Pub. L. 106-181, title I, §131, Apr. 5, 2000, 114 Stat. 78; Pub. L. 108-7, div. I, title III, §370(b)(1), (2), Feb. 20, 2003, 117 Stat. 425, 426; Pub. L. 108-176, title I, §105, Dec. 12, 2003, 117 Stat. 2498; Pub. L. 112-55, div. C, title I, §119, Nov. 18, 2011, 125 Stat. 649; Pub. L. 112-95, title I, §147, Feb. 14, 2012, 126 Stat. 30.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
47124(a)	49 App.:2222.	Sept. 3, 1982, Pub. L. 97-248, § 526, 96 Stat. 698.
47124(b)(1) ..	49 App.:2222 (note).	Dec. 30, 1987, Pub. L. 100-223, § 306, 101 Stat. 1526.
47124(b)(2) ..	49 App.:1344(h).	Aug. 23, 1958, Pub. L. 85-726, 72 Stat. 747, §303(h); added Oct. 31, 1992, Pub. L. 102-581, §201(a), 106 Stat. 4890.

In subsection (a), the words “In the powers granted under section 2218 of this Appendix” and “contract or other” are omitted as surplus. The word “relieves” is substituted for “contain, among others, a provision relieving”, and the words “from any liability arising out of, or related to” are substituted for “of any and all liability for the payment of any claim or other obligation arising out of or in connection with”, to eliminate unnecessary words.

In subsection (b)(1), the words “in effect” are omitted as surplus. The words “on December 30, 1987” are added for clarity.

In subsection (b)(2), the word “Secretary” is substituted for “Administrator” for consistency in the chapter.

AMENDMENTS

2012—Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 112-95, §147(a)(1), designated existing provisions as subpar. (A), inserted par. and subpar. headings, and added subpars. (B) and (C).

Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 112-95, §147(a)(2), inserted heading.

Subsec. (b)(3)(E), (F). Pub. L. 112-95, §147(b), added subpars. (E) and (F) and struck out former subpar. (E).

Prior to amendment, text of subpar. (E) read as follows: “Of the amounts appropriated pursuant to section 106(k), not more than \$6,500,000 for fiscal 2004, \$7,000,000 for fiscal year 2005, \$7,500,000 for fiscal year 2006, and \$8,000,000 for fiscal year 2007 may be used to carry out this paragraph.”

Subsec. (b)(4)(C). Pub. L. 112-95, §147(c), substituted “\$2,000,000” for “\$1,500,000”.

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 112-95, §147(d), added subsec. (c). 2011—Subsec. (b)(3)(D). Pub. L. 112-55 substituted “benefit, with the maximum allowable local cost share capped at 20 percent.” for “benefit.”

2003—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 108-176, §105(1), added subsec. (a) and struck out heading and text of former subsec. (a). Text read as follows: “The Secretary of Transportation shall ensure that an agreement under this subchapter with a State or a political subdivision of a State to allow the State or subdivision to operate an airport facility in the State or subdivision relieves the United States Government from any liability arising out of, or related to, acts or omissions of employees of the State or subdivision in operating the airport facility.”

Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 108-176, §105(2), added par. (2) and struck out former par. (2) which read as follows: “The Secretary may make a contract, on a sole source basis, with a State or a political subdivision of a State to allow the State or subdivision to operate an airport traffic control tower classified as a level I (Visual Flight Rules) tower if the Secretary decides that the State or subdivision has the capability to comply with the requirements of this paragraph. The contract shall require that the State or subdivision comply with applicable safety regulations in operating the facility and with applicable competition requirements in making a subcontract to perform work to carry out the contract.”

Subsec. (b)(3). Pub. L. 108-176, §105(3)(A), (B), struck out “PILOT” before “PROGRAM” in par. heading, before “program to contract” in subpar. (A), before “program, the Secretary” in subpars. (B) and (C), and before “program exceed” in subpar. (D).

Subsec. (b)(3)(A). Pub. L. 108-7, §370(b)(2)(A), substituted “nonapproach control towers, as defined by the Secretary,” for “Level I air traffic control towers, as defined by the Secretary,”.

Subsec. (b)(3)(E). Pub. L. 108-176, §105(3)(C), substituted “\$6,500,000 for fiscal 2004, \$7,000,000 for fiscal year 2005, \$7,500,000 for fiscal year 2006, and \$8,000,000 for fiscal year 2007” for “\$6,000,000 per fiscal year”.

Pub. L. 108-7, §370(b)(2)(B), substituted “Of” for “Subject to paragraph (4)(D), of”.

Subsec. (b)(4). Pub. L. 108-7, §370(b)(1), reenacted heading without change and amended text generally. Prior to amendment, par. authorized the Secretary to provide grants under this subchapter to not more than two airport sponsors for the construction of a low-level activity visual flight rule (level 1) air traffic control tower.

Subsec. (b)(4)(C). Pub. L. 108-176, §105(4), substituted “\$1,500,000” for “\$1,100,000”.

2000—Subsec. (b)(3), (4). Pub. L. 106-181 added pars. (3) and (4).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2003 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 108-176 applicable only to fiscal years beginning after Sept. 30, 2003, except as otherwise specifically provided, see section 3 of Pub. L. 108-176, set out as a note under section 106 of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2000 AMENDMENT

Amendment by Pub. L. 106-181 applicable only to fiscal years beginning after Sept. 30, 1999, see section 3 of Pub. L. 106-181, set out as a note under section 106 of this title.

SAVINGS PROVISION

Pub. L. 108-7, div. I, title III, §370(b)(3), Feb. 20, 2003, 117 Stat. 426, provided that: “Notwithstanding the

amendments made by this section [amending this section and section 47102 of this title], the towers for which assistance is being provided on the day before the date of enactment of this Act [Feb. 20, 2003] under section 47124(b)(4) of title 49, United States Code, as in effect on such day, may continue to be provided such assistance under the terms of such section.”

NONAPPROACH CONTROL TOWERS

Pub. L. 108-7, div. I, title III, §370(c), Feb. 20, 2003, 117 Stat. 426, provided that:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration may enter into a lease agreement or contract agreement with a private entity to provide for construction and operation of a non-approach control tower as defined by the Secretary of Transportation.

“(2) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—An agreement entered into under this section—

“(A) shall be negotiated under such procedures as the Administrator considers necessary to ensure the integrity of the selection process, the safety of air travel, and to protect the interests of the United States;

“(B) may provide a lease option to the United States, to be exercised at the discretion of the Administrator, to occupy any general-purpose space in a facility covered by the agreement;

“(C) shall not require, unless specifically determined otherwise by the Administrator, Federal ownership of a facility covered under the agreement after the expiration of the agreement;

“(D) shall describe the consideration, duties, and responsibilities for which the United States and the private entity are responsible;

“(E) shall provide that the United States will not be liable for any action, debt, or liability of any entity created by the agreement;

“(F) shall provide that the private entity may not execute any instrument or document creating or evidencing any indebtedness with respect to a facility covered by the agreement unless such instrument or document specifically disclaims any liability of the United States under the instrument or document; and

“(G) shall include such other terms and conditions as the Administrator considers appropriate.”

USE OF APPORTIONMENTS TO PAY NON-FEDERAL SHARE OF OPERATION COSTS

Pub. L. 108-7, div. I, title III, §370(d), Feb. 20, 2003, 117 Stat. 427, provided that:

“(1) STUDY.—The Secretary of Transportation shall conduct a study of the feasibility, costs, and benefits of allowing the sponsor of an airport to use not to exceed 10 percent of amounts apportioned to the sponsor under section 47114 to pay the non-Federal share of the cost of operation of an air traffic control tower under section 47124(b) of title 49, United States Code.

“(2) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act [Feb. 20, 2003], the Secretary shall transmit to Congress a report on the results of the study.”

CONTRACT TOWER ASSISTANCE

Pub. L. 103-305, title V, §508, Aug. 23, 1994, 108 Stat. 1596, provided that: “The Secretary shall take appropriate action to assist communities where the Secretary deems such assistance appropriate in obtaining the installation of a Level I Contract Tower for those communities.”

§ 47125. Conveyances of United States Government land

(a) CONVEYANCES TO PUBLIC AGENCIES.—Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the Secretary of Transportation shall request the head of the department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government owning

or controlling land or airspace to convey a property interest in the land or airspace to the public agency sponsoring the project or owning or controlling the airport when necessary to carry out a project under this subchapter at a public airport, to operate a public airport, or for the future development of an airport under the national plan of integrated airport systems. The head of the department, agency, or instrumentality shall decide whether the requested conveyance is consistent with the needs of the department, agency, or instrumentality and shall notify the Secretary of that decision not later than 4 months after receiving the request. If the head of the department, agency, or instrumentality decides that the requested conveyance is consistent with its needs, the head of the department, agency, or instrumentality, with the approval of the Attorney General and without cost to the Government, shall make the conveyance. A conveyance may be made only on the condition that the property interest conveyed reverts to the Government, at the option of the Secretary, to the extent it is not developed for an airport purpose or used consistently with the conveyance. Before waiving a condition that property be used for an aeronautical purpose under the preceding sentence, the Secretary must provide notice to the public not less than 30 days before waiving such condition.

(b) NONAPPLICATION.—Except as specifically provided by law, subsection (a) of this section does not apply to land or airspace owned or controlled by the Government within—

(1) a national park, national monument, national recreation area, or similar area under the administration of the National Park Service;

(2) a unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System or similar area under the jurisdiction of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;

or

(3) a national forest or Indian reservation.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1276; Pub. L. 106-181, title I, §125(b), Apr. 5, 2000, 114 Stat. 75.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

<i>Revised Section</i>	<i>Source (U.S. Code)</i>	<i>Source (Statutes at Large)</i>
47125(a)	49 App.:2215(a), (b).	Sept. 3, 1982, Pub. L. 97-248, §516, 96 Stat. 692.
47125(b)	49 App.:2215(c).	

In subsection (a), the text of 49 App.:2215(a) (last sentence) is omitted as surplus because a “property interest in land or airspace” necessarily includes “title to . . . land or any easement through . . . airspace”. The words “when necessary” are substituted for “whenever the Secretary determines that use of any lands owned or controlled by the United States is reasonably necessary for”, and the words “for the future development” are substituted for “including lands reasonably necessary to meet future development”, to eliminate unnecessary words. The words “not later than 4 months after receiving the request” are substituted for “Upon receipt of a request from the Secretary under this section” and “within a period of four months after receipt of the Secretary’s request” for clarity and to eliminate unnecessary words. The words “make the conveyance” are substituted for “perform any acts and to execute any instruments necessary to make the conveyance requested”, and the words “that the property interest