



Media Release

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SB-095 Prohibiting Laser Strikes on Aircraft Passes State Legislature

Denver, CO – The Colorado Aviation Business Association (CABA) is pleased to announce that SB23-095, a bill making it a state offense to aim a laser at a manned aircraft, has passed both chambers of the State Legislature and is on its way to the Governor’s desk.

The bill, sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Joann Ginal (D-Fort Collins) and Sen. Bob Gardner (R-Colorado Springs), and in the House by Rep. Lindsey Daugherty (D-Arvada) and Rep. Matt Soper (R-Delta), makes knowingly pointing, aiming, or focusing the beam of a laser device at a manned aircraft a level 6 felony in the State of Colorado. An amendment added in the House clarified that the incident needs to be reported by the pilot or aircrew before the offence applies.

“We are very happy with this outcome, and wish to thank the bill sponsors, and all who voted in support of this legislation, for their efforts to keep pilots, flight crews, passengers, and even potentially people on the ground, safe from the impacts of laser strikes,” said _____ of CABA. “The impacts on vision from a laser beam hitting the cockpit are nothing short of blinding, and the can cause temporary or even permanent eye damage to the pilot, putting everyone at risk.”

Aiming a laser at an aircraft is already a federal crime, but without a state law in place there was very little local law enforcement could do.

Swathwood says that while all pilots and all types of aircraft are at risk, some of the most frequent victims are air ambulance flights and trainee pilots.

“Air ambulance helicopters often fly at night, at low levels, and tend to attract attention, so they are frequent targets of this dangerous behavior. That places not only the pilots at risk of injury, but also the flight medical personnel and even the patient who needs life-saving transportation.”

Lat year 304 laser strike incidents were reported in Colorado, up from 261 the year before. Nationwide, pilots reported nearly 9,500 strikes in 2022, according to the Federal Aviation Administration.

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The Colorado Aviation Business Association (CABA) is a grass-roots membership organization focused on the support and promotion of Business and General Aviation across the State of Colorado