

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9687

To require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to revise regulations for certain individuals carrying out aviation activities who disclose a mental health diagnosis, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

Mr. CASTEN (for himself and Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to revise regulations for certain individuals carrying out aviation activities who disclose a mental health diagnosis, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Mental Health in Avia-
5 tion Act of 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. REGULATIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS CARRYING OUT**
2 **AVIATION ACTIVITIES.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the
4 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the
5 Federal Aviation Administration shall update regulations,
6 including in part 67 of title 14 of Code of Federal Regula-
7 tions, as appropriate, and take any other actions necessary
8 to implement the recommendations of the aviation work-
9 force mental health task group established under section
10 411(d) the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 to encourage
11 individuals to—

12 (1) seek help for mental health conditions or
13 symptoms of mental health conditions; and

14 (2) to disclose conditions or symptoms de-
15 scribed in paragraph (1).

16 (b) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this section,
17 the task group described in subsection (a) shall consult
18 with relevant stakeholders from the aviation and medical
19 communities, as necessary, including—

20 (1) the exclusive bargaining representatives of
21 pilots and air traffic controllers certified under sec-
22 tion 7111 of title 5, United States Code;

23 (2) aviation medical examiners, as described in
24 section 183.21 of title 14, Code of Federal Regula-
25 tions;

1 (3) organizations representing the individuals in
2 paragraphs (1) and (2); and

3 (4) any other stakeholder determined relevant
4 by the task group , including any stakeholders de-
5 scribed in section 411(d)(3)(B) of the FAA Reau-
6 thorization Act of 2024.

7 (c) REPORT REQUIREMENTS.—Section 411(d)(4) of
8 the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 (Public Law 118–
9 63) is amended—

10 (1) in subparagraph (B) by striking “and” at
11 the end;

12 (2) in subparagraph (C) by striking the period
13 at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

14 (3) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(D) an evaluation of any recommenda-
16 tions reached by the National Transportation
17 Safety Board related to aviation workforce men-
18 tal health; and

19 “(E) a description of relevant clinical stud-
20 ies, research, diagnostic manuals, and protocols
21 used by the licensed professionals as of the date
22 of enactment of this Act.”.

1 **SEC. 3. ANNUAL REVIEW OF MENTAL HEALTH SPECIAL**
2 **ISSUANCE PROCESS.**

3 The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Adminis-
4 tration shall conduct an annual review, and update, as ap-
5 propriate, the applicable regulations and policies, on men-
6 tal health-related special issuance for pilots and air traffic
7 controllers to—

8 (1) reclassify and approve additional medica-
9 tions that may be safely prescribed to airmen to
10 treat mental health conditions;

11 (2) if the administrator determines appropriate,
12 delegate additional authority to aviation medical ex-
13 aminers; and

14 (3) improve the special issuance process for pi-
15 lots and air traffic controllers.

16 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION FOR ADDI-**
17 **TIONAL AVIATION MEDICAL EXAMINERS.**

18 There is authorized to be appropriated \$13,740,000
19 to the Administrator for each of fiscal years 2025 through
20 2028 to—

21 (1) recruit, select, train, and delegate the nec-
22 essary authorities to additional aviation medical ex-
23 aminers and human intervention motivation study
24 aviation medical examiners, including those who are
25 psychiatrists;

1 (2) review and improve mental health care
2 training for aviation medical examiners;

3 (3) expand capacity to provide oversight of
4 aviation medical examiners and clear the backlog of
5 special issuance requests at the Office of Aerospace
6 Medicine; and

7 (4) support any other related activities, as de-
8 termined by the Administrator.

9 **SEC. 5. PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-
11 priated to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Ad-
12 ministration \$1,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2025
13 through 2028 for a public information campaign or similar
14 public education efforts to destigmatize individuals in (or
15 interested in joining) the aviation industry who seek men-
16 tal health care and to broaden awareness of available sup-
17 portive services.

18 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the Admin-
19 istrator creates the public information campaign described
20 in subsection (a), the Administrator shall submit to appro-
21 priate committees of Congress a report describing the ac-
22 tions taken to develop such campaign and the plans for
23 implementation.

24 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

25 In this Act:

1 (1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
2 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
3 gress” means—

4 (A) the Committee on Transportation and
5 Infrastructure of the House of Representatives;
6 and

7 (B) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
8 and Transportation of the Senate.

9 (2) SPECIAL ISSUANCE.—The term “special
10 issuance” has the meaning given the term in section
11 67.401 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations.

○