

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 748

To require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to establish a pilot program to provide veterans with pilot training services.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 9, 2023

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. HOEVEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to establish a pilot program to provide veterans with pilot training services.

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 “American Aviator
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE VETERANS WITH**
7 **PILOT TRAINING SERVICES.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Federal
9 Aviation Administration (in this section referred to as the

1 “Administrator”), in consultation with the Secretary of
2 Education and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall es-
3 tablish a program to provide assistance in the form of
4 grants to eligible entities that provide pilot training activi-
5 ties and related education to support a pathway for vet-
6 erans to become commercial aviators.

7 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—For purposes of this section,
8 the term “eligible entity” means a pilot school or provi-
9 sional pilot school that—

10 (1) holds an Air Agency Certificate under part
11 145 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations; and

12 (2) has an established employment pathway
13 with at least 1 air carrier operating under part 121
14 or 135 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations.

15 (c) PRIORITY APPLICATION.—In selecting eligible en-
16 tities to award grants to under this section, the Adminis-
17 trator shall give priority to eligible entities that meet the
18 following criteria:

19 (1) The eligible entity is accredited (as defined
20 in section 61.1 of title 14, Code of Federal Regula-
21 tions) by an accrediting agency recognized by the
22 Secretary of Education.

23 (2) The eligible entity holds a letter of author-
24 ization issued in accordance with section 61.169 of
25 title 14, Code of Federal Regulations.

1 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts from a grant received
2 by an eligible entity under the pilot program shall be used
3 for the following:

4 (1) Administrative costs related to implementa-
5 tion of the program, not to exceed 10 percent of the
6 amount awarded.

7 (2) To provide guidance and pilot training serv-
8 ices, including tuition and flight training fees for
9 veterans enrolled with the eligible entity and any
10 training required to reach proficiency, to the vet-
11 erans enrolled to support them in obtaining any of
12 the following pilot certificates and ratings:

13 (A) Private pilot certificate.

14 (B) Instrument rating.

15 (C) Commercial pilot certificate.

16 (D) Multi-engine rating.

17 (E) Certificated flight instructor single en-
18 gine certificate, if applicable to degree sought.

19 (F) Certificated flight instructor multi-en-
20 gine certificate, if applicable to degree sought.

21 (G) Certificated flight instructor instru-
22 ment certificate, if applicable to degree sought.

23 (3) To provide books, training materials, and
24 equipment to support pilot training activities and re-

1 lated education for veterans enrolled with the eligible
2 entity.

3 (4) To provide periodic reports to the Adminis-
4 trator on use of the grant funds, including docu-
5 mentation of training completion of the certificates
6 and ratings described in subparagraphs (A) through
7 (G) of paragraph (2).

8 (e) COORDINATION WITH VETERANS EDUCATION
9 BENEFITS.—In the event a veteran participates in the
10 pilot program who is entitled to educational assistance for
11 veterans under the laws administered by the Secretary of
12 Veterans Affairs—

13 (1) any costs of the veteran in participation in
14 the pilot program that are covered by such edu-
15 cational assistance shall be borne by the veteran
16 using such educational assistance; and

17 (2) any costs incurred by the veteran in partici-
18 pation in the pilot program that are not covered by
19 such educational assistance, including the cost of a
20 private or commercial pilot license, may be borne by
21 the eligible entity concerned using grant amounts
22 awarded to the eligible entity for purposes of the
23 pilot program.

1 (f) APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry out this section,
2 there is authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 for each
3 of the fiscal years 2024 through 2029.

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