

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6380

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a pilot program to provide flight training for military veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 13, 2023

Mr. GOODEN of Texas (for himself, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. GUEST, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. BACON, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. VAN DREW, and Mr. MOORE of Alabama) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a pilot program to provide flight training for military veterans, 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 “Wings for Veterans
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM FOR FLIGHT TRAINING.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 120 days after
3 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Trans-
4 portation shall establish a pilot program (in this Act re-
5 ferred to as the “Program”) to award grants to not more
6 than 10 covered flight schools to provide flight training
7 to eligible veterans.

8 (b) GRANT AMOUNT.—Each grant awarded under
9 this section may not exceed \$500,000.

10 (c) ELIGIBLE USES.—A covered flight school may
11 only use a grant awarded under the Program for the fol-
12 lowing:

13 (1) The provision of guidance and pilot training
14 services, including tuition and flight training fees for
15 veterans enrolled in such flight school and any train-
16 ing required for eligible veterans to earn the fol-
17 lowing certificates and ratings issued under part 141
18 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations:

19 (A) A private pilot certificate.

20 (B) A commercial pilot certificate.

21 (C) A certified flight instructor certificate.

22 (D) A certified flight instructor instrument
23 certificate.

24 (E) An instrument rating.

25 (F) A multiengine rating.

1 (2) The provision of books, training materials,
2 and equipment to support pilot training activities
3 and related education for veterans enrolled in such
4 flight school.

5 (3) Administrative costs related to providing the
6 services described in this subsection, not to exceed
7 10 percent of the amount awarded.

8 (d) APPLICATIONS TO RECEIVE FLIGHT TRAIN-
9 ING.—A covered flight school receiving a grant under the
10 Program shall be responsible for—

11 (1) soliciting applications for flight training
12 from eligible veterans;

13 (2) reviewing such applications to verify that
14 applicants meet the definition of eligible veteran;
15 and

16 (3) selecting from such applications eligible vet-
17 erans to receive flight training and enrolling such
18 veterans in appropriate flight training programs.

19 (e) TERMINATION.—The Program shall terminate 18
20 months after the date on which the Program is established
21 under subsection (a).

22 (f) REPORTS.—

23 (1) REPORTS TO SECRETARY.—Each covered
24 flight school that receives a grant under the Pro-
25 gram shall periodically submit to the Secretary a re-

1 port describing the use of grant funds and include
2 in such report documentation of training completed
3 by veterans enrolled in such flight school under the
4 Program.

5 (2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than
6 180 days after the Program terminates under sub-
7 section (e), the Secretary of Transportation, in con-
8 sultation with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs,
9 shall submit to the Committees on Education and
10 Labor, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Vet-
11 erans' Affairs of the House of Representatives, a re-
12 port that includes a description of the following:

13 (A) How the improvement of the consist-
14 ency and eligibility for assistance under chapter
15 33 of title 38, United States Code, may used to
16 provide flight training to veterans.

17 (B) The costs associated with obtaining a
18 commercial pilot certificate and ways in which
19 such costs could be reduced for veterans seek-
20 ing a commercial pilot certificate.

21 (C) Ways to increase cooperation between
22 the Department of Transportation and veterans
23 service organizations to recruit, screen, and
24 train veterans as commercial pilots.

1 (D) Ways to improve the availability of
2 Federal student loans to veterans to use for at-
3 tending vocational flight school.

4 (E) A model program under which States
5 and domestic commercial airlines provide assist-
6 ance to veterans to obtain the flight training
7 necessary to obtain a commercial pilot certifi-
8 cate with a multiengine rating.

9 (F) Rates of successful completion of cer-
10 tification by veterans enrolled in a covered
11 flight school under the Program.

12 (G) Challenges faced by such veterans
13 while receiving flight training.

14 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

15 (1) COVERED FLIGHT SCHOOL.—The term
16 “covered flight school” means a flight school that
17 holds a pilot school certificate under part 141 of title
18 14, Code of Federal Regulations.

19 (2) ELIGIBLE VETERAN.—The term “eligible
20 veteran” means an individual who—

21 (A) served in the active military, naval, air,
22 or space service, and who was discharged or re-
23 leased from such service with an honorable dis-
24 charge;

1 (B) meets regulatory requirements set
2 forth by the Secretary to obtain at least a sec-
3 ond class medical certificate;

4 (C) certifies an intent to pursue a career
5 as a commercial pilot; and

6 (D) meets any other requirements for eligi-
7 bility as determined appropriate by the Sec-
8 retary.

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