

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4161

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish an apprenticeship program for students at flight schools, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 15, 2023

Mr. DONALDS (for himself, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. MANN, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. SANTOS, and Ms. MACE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish an apprenticeship program for students at flight schools, 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 “Pre-Pilot Pathway
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM FOR PILOTS.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) APPRENTICE.—The term “apprentice”
9 means a student enrolled at a flight school.

1 (2) FLIGHT SCHOOL.—The term “flight school”
2 means a flight academy certified under part 141 of
3 title 14, Code of Federal Regulations.

4 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
5 the Secretary of Transportation.

6 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, in consulta-
7 tion with flight schools and other industry stakeholders,
8 shall establish an apprenticeship program with flight
9 schools to establish a pipeline of qualified and interested
10 individuals to become commercial pilots.

11 (c) SELECTION.—Under the apprenticeship program
12 established under subsection (b), each flight school partici-
13 pating in the apprenticeship program established under
14 subsection (b) may select up to 8 applicants to flight
15 school to serve as apprentices each academic year.

16 (d) CURRICULUM AND REQUIREMENTS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—To graduate from an ap-
18 prenticeship program established under subsection
19 (b), an apprentice shall satisfy any relevant require-
20 ments and minimum curriculum under part 141 of
21 title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor
22 regulations), including all curriculum under subpart
23 C of such part.

24 (2) MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.—Nothing in this
25 Act prevents a flight school from imposing additional

1 requirements, such as modifying the terms of service
2 of the apprenticeship program, on an apprentice tak-
3 ing part in an apprenticeship program established
4 pursuant to this section.

5 (e) OPTIONAL PROGRAM.—A flight school may
6 choose not to participate in an apprenticeship program es-
7 tablished under this section.

8 (f) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the
9 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue
10 such regulations as are necessary to implement this Act.

11 (g) INCENTIVIZING RETIRED PILOTS.—The Sec-
12 retary shall take such actions as may be appropriate to
13 develop methods to incentivize pilots, including retired
14 military pilots, retiring airline pilots, and graduates of the
15 apprenticeship program established under this section, to
16 become instructors at flight schools, including through the
17 development of pathway programs for such pilots to gain
18 initial qualification or concurrent qualification as certified
19 flight instructors under part 61 of title 14, Code of Fed-
20 eral Regulations.

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