

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9889

To direct the Secretary of Defense to report to Congress on the potential expansion of pathways for graduates of civilian test pilot schools to serve as test pilots and flight test engineers in support of military testing activities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 22, 2026

Mr. WHITESIDES (for himself and Mr. OBERNOLTE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Defense to report to Congress on the potential expansion of pathways for graduates of civilian test pilot schools to serve as test pilots and flight test engineers in support of military testing activities, 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 “Providing Increased
5 Local Opportunities for Test-pilots Act” or the “PILOT
6 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REPORT ON EXPANSION OF PATHWAYS FOR CIVIL-**
2 **IAN TEST PILOTS TO SUPPORT MILITARY**
3 **TESTING ACTIVITIES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than January 1, 2027,
5 the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secre-
6 taries of the military departments, shall submit to the
7 Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the
8 House of Representatives a report on the feasibility and
9 advisability of expanding the pathways available under De-
10 fense Contract Management Agency Instruction 8210–1D
11 for graduates of accredited civilian test pilot schools in the
12 United States to serve as test pilots and flight test engi-
13 neers in support of military testing activities.

14 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under sub-
15 section (a) shall include—

16 (1) an assessment of the current capacity of
17 military and approved civilian test pilots to support
18 military test activities, set forth separately by Armed
19 Force;

20 (2) an assessment of the feasibility and advis-
21 ability of modifying Defense Contract Management
22 Agency Instruction 8210–1D to authorize all grad-
23 uates of accredited civilian test pilot schools in the
24 United States to support military test activities, in-
25 cluding any potential benefits or risks associated
26 with such a modification; and

1 (3) identification of an appropriate certification
2 process for civilian test pilot schools in the United
3 States to ensure that—

4 (A) graduates of such schools fully meet
5 the education and training requirements stipu-
6 lated in Defense Contract Management Agency
7 Instruction 8210–1D; and

8 (B) the curriculum of such schools aligns
9 with the curriculum of military test pilot
10 schools.

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