

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3257

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 or condition, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 20, 2025

Mr. HOEVEN (for himself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. REED, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. KIM) 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 revise regulations for certain individuals carrying out aviation activities who disclose a mental health diagnosis or condition, 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 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
2 trator” means the Administrator of the Federal
3 Aviation Administration.

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

7 (A) the Committee on Transportation and
8 Infrastructure of the House of Representatives;

9 (B) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
10 and Transportation of the Senate;

11 (C) the Committee on Appropriations of
12 the House of Representatives; and

13 (D) the Committee on Appropriations of
14 the Senate.

15 (3) FAA.—The term “FAA” means the Fed-
16 eral Aviation Administration.

17 (4) SPECIAL ISSUANCE.—The term “special
18 issuance” has the meaning given such term in sec-
19 tion 67.401 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations.

20 **SEC. 3. REGULATIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS CARRYING OUT**
21 **AVIATION ACTIVITIES.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the
23 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall up-
24 date regulations, including in part 67 of title 14, Code

1 of Federal Regulations, and issue relevant guidance as ap-
 2 propriate to encourage individuals to—

3 (1) seek help for mental health conditions or
 4 symptoms of mental health conditions; and

5 (2) to disclose conditions or symptoms de-
 6 scribed in paragraph (1).

7 (b) CONSULTATION; REPORT REQUIREMENTS.—Sec-
 8 tion 411(d) of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 (49
 9 U.S.C. 44703 note) is amended—

10 (1) in paragraph (4)—

11 (A) in subparagraphs (A) and (B), by
 12 striking “and” at the end;

13 (B) in subparagraph (C), by striking the
 14 period at the end and inserting a semicolon;
 15 and

16 (C) by adding at the end the following new
 17 subparagraphs:

18 “(D) a review and evaluation of any rec-
 19 ommendations reached by the National Trans-
 20 portation Safety Board related to aviation
 21 workforce mental health; and

22 “(E) a description of relevant clinical stud-
 23 ies, research, diagnostic manuals, and protocols
 24 used by the licensed professionals as of the date
 25 of the enactment of this subparagraph.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(5) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this subsection, the task group shall consult with relevant stakeholders from the aviation and medical communities, as necessary, including—

“(A) the exclusive bargaining representatives of air traffic controllers of the FAA certified under section 7111 of title 5, United States Code;

“(B) organizations representing collective bargaining representatives of airline pilots;

“(C) institutions of higher education that are accredited by the Aviation Accreditation Board International; and

“(D) any other stakeholder determined relevant by the task group, including any stakeholders described in paragraph (3)(B).”.

(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and for any report issued thereafter, not later than 180 days after the submission of each report required under section 411(f) of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 (49 U.S.C. 44703 note), the Administrator

1 shall take appropriate action to implement the rec-
2 ommendations of such report.

3 (2) JUSTIFICATION.—In the event that the Ad-
4 ministrator decides not to implement a recommenda-
5 tion described in paragraph (1), the Administrator
6 shall submit to the appropriate committees of Con-
7 gress the justification for such decision not later
8 than 90 days after receiving the report containing
9 such recommendation.

10 **SEC. 4. ANNUAL REVIEW OF MENTAL HEALTH SPECIAL**
11 **ISSUANCE PROCESS.**

12 Beginning on the date that is 180 days after the Ad-
13 ministrator submits the first report pursuant to section
14 411(f) of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 (49
15 U.S.C. 44703 note), and annually thereafter, the Adminis-
16 trator shall conduct an annual review of the special
17 issuance process, and update, as appropriate, the applica-
18 ble regulations, policies, orders, and guidance on mental
19 health-related special issuance for pilots and air traffic
20 controllers to—

21 (1) consider the reclassification of additional
22 medications and evidence-based treatments that may
23 be safely prescribed to treat mental health condi-
24 tions;

1 (2) improve mental health knowledge and train-
2 ing for aviation medical examiners;

3 (3) if the Administrator determines appropriate,
4 expand mental-health related situations in which an
5 aviation medical examiner may issue a certificate
6 consistent with the recommendations of the Mental
7 Health and Aviation Medical Clearances Rulemaking
8 Committee described in section 6; and

9 (4) improve the special issuance process for pi-
10 lots and air traffic controllers.

11 **SEC. 5. IMPROVING CAPACITY FOR THE OFFICE OF AERO-**
12 **SPACE MEDICINE.**

13 Of the amounts made available pursuant to section
14 106(k)(1) of title 49, United States Code, the Adminis-
15 trator shall designate not more than \$15,000,000 for each
16 of fiscal years 2026 through 2029 to—

17 (1) recruit, select, and train additional aviation
18 medical examiners and human intervention motiva-
19 tion study aviation medical examiners, including
20 those who are psychiatrists;

21 (2) expand capacity to provide oversight of
22 aviation medical examiners and clear the backlog of
23 special issuance requests and cases awaiting review
24 at the Office of Aerospace Medicine of the FAA;

1 (3) provide enhanced mental health training to
2 aviation medical examiners to ensure such personnel
3 have requisite knowledge and the ability to appro-
4 priately evaluate individuals for FAA medical certifi-
5 cation; and

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

8 **SEC. 6. IMPLEMENTATION OF AVIATION RULEMAKING**
9 **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.**

10 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 2 years after the
11 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall im-
12 plement, as appropriate, the recommendations of the Men-
13 tal Health and Aviation Medical Clearances Aviation Rule-
14 making Committee, which were submitted to the Adminis-
15 trator on April 1, 2024.

16 (b) **CONSULTATION.**—In carrying out subsection (a),
17 the Administrator shall consult with the stakeholders de-
18 scribed in section 411(d)(5) of the FAA Reauthorization
19 Act of 2024 (as added by this Act).

20 (c) **JUSTIFICATION.**—If the Administrator decides
21 not to implement a recommendation described in sub-
22 section (a), the Administrator shall submit to the appro-
23 priate committees of Congress the justification for such
24 decision not later than 90 days after the deadline de-
25 scribed in such subsection.

1 **SEC. 7. PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts made available
3 pursuant to section 106(k)(1) of title 49, United States
4 Code, the Administrator shall designate not more than
5 \$1,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2029
6 for a public information campaign or similar public edu-
7 cation efforts to—

8 (1) destigmatize individuals in (or interested in
9 joining) the aviation industry who seek mental
10 health care;

11 (2) broaden awareness of available supportive
12 services; and

13 (3) improve trust between the FAA and pilots
14 and air traffic controllers.

15 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The public information cam-
16 paign or similar public education efforts described in sub-
17 section (a) shall include—

18 (1) making publicly available (in an easily ac-
19 cessible format and location online)—

20 (A) information that would help
21 destigmatize the reporting of mental health con-
22 cerns impacting the aviation workforce, and en-
23 courage individuals to seek help for such con-
24 cerns; and

25 (B) other information to effectuate the
26 outcomes described in subsection (a);

1 (2) posting the information described in para-
2 graph (1) at Aviation Medical Examiner offices; and

3 (3) collaborating with air carriers (as defined in
4 section 40102 of title 49, United States Code), flight
5 training institutions and entities (as described in
6 parts 61 and 141 of title 14, Code of Federal Regu-
7 lations), and small, medium, and large hub airports
8 (as defined in such section 40102) to encourage
9 such entities to make such information easily acces-
10 sible to airmen and air traffic controllers.

11 (c) BRIEFING AND REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

12 (1) BRIEFING.—Not later than 90 days after
13 the Administrator establishes the public information
14 campaign described in subsection (a), the Adminis-
15 trator shall brief the appropriate committees of Con-
16 gress on the actions taken to develop the campaign
17 and the plans to implement the campaign.

18 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the
19 Administrator implements the public information
20 campaign, the Administrator shall submit to the ap-
21 propriate committees of Congress a report describing
22 the engagement and outreach resulting from such
23 campaign, including a description of any applicable

- 1 feedback from aviation industry stakeholders on the
- 2 efficacy of the campaign.

