

Calendar No. 558

119TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 3257

[Report No. 119–139]

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, Mr. KIM, Mr. RISCH, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORENO, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. SULLIVAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. WARNOCK, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. GALLEG0, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. COONS, Mr. DAINES, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CASSIDY, and Ms. SLOTKIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

Reported by Mr. CRUZ, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

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:

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

11 (2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
 12 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
 13 gress” means—

14 (A) the Committee on Transportation and
 15 Infrastructure of the House of Representatives;

16 (B) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
 17 and Transportation of the Senate;

18 (C) the Committee on Appropriations of
 19 the House of Representatives; and

20 (D) the Committee on Appropriations of
 21 the Senate.

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

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

4 **SEC. 3. REGULATIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS CARRYING OUT**
5 **AVIATION ACTIVITIES.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the
7 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall up-
8 date regulations, including in part 67 of title 14, Code
9 of Federal Regulations, and issue relevant guidance as ap-
10 propriate to encourage individuals to—

11 (1) seek help for mental health conditions or
12 symptoms of mental health conditions; and

13 (2) to disclose conditions or symptoms de-
14 scribed in paragraph (1).

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

18 (1) in paragraph (4)—

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

21 (B) in subparagraph (C), by striking the
22 period at the end and inserting a semicolon;
23 and

24 (C) by adding at the end the following new
25 subparagraphs:

1 “(D) a review and evaluation of any rec-
 2 ommendations reached by the National Trans-
 3 portation Safety Board related to aviation
 4 workforce mental health; and

5 “(E) a description of relevant clinical stud-
 6 ies, research, diagnostic manuals, and protocols
 7 used by the licensed professionals as of the date
 8 of the enactment of this subparagraph.”; and

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

11 “(5) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this sub-
 12 section, the task group shall consult with relevant
 13 stakeholders from the aviation and medical commu-
 14 nities, as necessary, including—

15 “(A) the exclusive bargaining representa-
 16 tives of air traffic controllers of the FAA cer-
 17 tified under section 7111 of title 5, United
 18 States Code;

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

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

1 “(D) any other stakeholder determined rel-
 2 evant by the task group, including any stake-
 3 holders described in paragraph (3)(B).”.

4 (c) IMPLEMENTATION.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
 6 after the date of enactment of this Act, and for any
 7 report issued thereafter, not later than 180 days
 8 after the submission of each report required under
 9 section 411(f) of the FAA Reauthorization Act of
 10 2024 (49 U.S.C. 44703 note), the Administrator
 11 shall take appropriate action to implement the rec-
 12 ommendations of such report.

13 (2) JUSTIFICATION.—In the event that the Ad-
 14 ministrator decides not to implement a recommenda-
 15 tion described in paragraph (1), the Administrator
 16 shall submit to the appropriate committees of Con-
 17 gress the justification for such decision not later
 18 than 90 days after receiving the report containing
 19 such recommendation.

20 **SEC. 4. ANNUAL REVIEW OF MENTAL HEALTH SPECIAL**
 21 **ISSUANCE PROCESS.**

22 Beginning on the date that is 180 days after the Ad-
 23 ministrator submits the first report pursuant to section
 24 411(f) of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 (49
 25 U.S.C. 44703 note), and annually thereafter, the Adminis-

1 trator shall conduct an annual review of the special
 2 issuance process, and update, as appropriate, the applica-
 3 ble regulations, policies, orders, and guidance on mental
 4 health-related special issuance for pilots and air traffic
 5 controllers to—

6 (1) consider the reclassification of additional
 7 medications and evidence-based treatments that may
 8 be safely prescribed to treat mental health condi-
 9 tions;

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

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

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

20 **SEC. 5. IMPROVING CAPACITY FOR THE OFFICE OF AERO-**
 21 **SPACE MEDICINE.**

22 Of the amounts made available pursuant to section
 23 106(k)(1) of title 49, United States Code, the Adminis-
 24 trator shall designate not more than \$15,000,000 for each
 25 of fiscal years 2026 through 2029 to—

1 ~~(1) recruit, select, and train additional aviation~~
 2 ~~medical examiners and human intervention motiva-~~
 3 ~~tion study aviation medical examiners, including~~
 4 ~~those who are psychiatrists;~~

5 ~~(2) expand capacity to provide oversight of~~
 6 ~~aviation medical examiners and clear the backlog of~~
 7 ~~special issuance requests and cases awaiting review~~
 8 ~~at the Office of Aerospace Medicine of the FAA;~~

9 ~~(3) provide enhanced mental health training to~~
 10 ~~aviation medical examiners to ensure such personnel~~
 11 ~~have requisite knowledge and the ability to appro-~~
 12 ~~priately evaluate individuals for FAA medical certifi-~~
 13 ~~cation; and~~

14 ~~(4) support any other related activities, as de-~~
 15 ~~termined appropriate by the Administrator.~~

16 **SEC. 6. IMPLEMENTATION OF AVIATION RULEMAKING**
 17 **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.**

18 ~~(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the~~
 19 ~~date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall im-~~
 20 ~~plement, as appropriate, the recommendations of the Men-~~
 21 ~~tal Health and Aviation Medical Clearances Aviation Rule-~~
 22 ~~making Committee, which were submitted to the Adminis-~~
 23 ~~trator on April 1, 2024.~~

24 ~~(b) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out subsection (a),~~
 25 ~~the Administrator shall consult with the stakeholders de-~~

1 scribed in section 411(d)(5) of the FAA Reauthorization
 2 Act of 2024 (as added by this Act).

3 (c) ~~JUSTIFICATION.~~—If the Administrator decides
 4 not to implement a recommendation described in sub-
 5 section (a), the Administrator shall submit to the appro-
 6 priate committees of Congress the justification for such
 7 decision not later than 90 days after the deadline de-
 8 scribed in such subsection.

9 **SEC. 7. PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN.**

10 (a) ~~IN GENERAL.~~—Of the amounts made available
 11 pursuant to section 106(k)(1) of title 49, United States
 12 Code, the Administrator shall designate not more than
 13 \$1,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2029
 14 for a public information campaign or similar public edu-
 15 cation efforts to—

16 (1) ~~destigmatize individuals in (or interested in~~
 17 ~~joining) the aviation industry who seek mental~~
 18 ~~health care;~~

19 (2) ~~broaden awareness of available supportive~~
 20 ~~services; and~~

21 (3) ~~improve trust between the FAA and pilots~~
 22 ~~and air traffic controllers.~~

23 (b) ~~REQUIREMENTS.~~—The public information cam-
 24 paign or similar public education efforts described in sub-
 25 section (a) shall include—

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

3 (A) information that would help
4 destigmatize the reporting of mental health con-
5 cerns impacting the aviation workforce; and en-
6 courage individuals to seek help for such con-
7 cerns; and

8 (B) other information to effectuate the
9 outcomes described in subsection (a);

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

12 (3) collaborating with air carriers (as defined in
13 section 40102 of title 49, United States Code); flight
14 training institutions and entities (as described in
15 parts 61 and 141 of title 14, Code of Federal Regu-
16 lations); and small, medium, and large hub airports
17 (as defined in such section 40102) to encourage
18 such entities to make such information easily acces-
19 sible to airmen and air traffic controllers.

20 (c) BRIEFING AND REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

21 (1) BRIEFING.—Not later than 90 days after
22 the Administrator establishes the public information
23 campaign described in subsection (a), the Adminis-
24 trator shall brief the appropriate committees of Con-

gress on the actions taken to develop the campaign
and the plans to implement the campaign.

~~(2) REPORT.~~—Not later than 2 years after the
Administrator implements the public information
campaign, the Administrator shall submit to the ap-
propriate committees of Congress a report describing
the engagement and outreach resulting from such
campaign, including a description of any applicable
feedback from aviation industry stakeholders on the
efficacy of the campaign.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the “John A. Hauser Mental
Health in Aviation Act”.*

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) *ADMINISTRATOR.*—The term “Adminis-
trator” means the Administrator of the Federal Avia-
tion Administration.

(2) *APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.*—
The term “appropriate committees of Congress”
means—

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

1 (B) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
2 and Transportation of the Senate.

3 (3) *FAA*.—The term “FAA” means the Federal
4 Aviation Administration.

5 (4) *SPECIAL ISSUANCE*.—The term “special
6 issuance” has the meaning given such term in section
7 67.401 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations.

8 **SEC. 3. REGULATIONS FOR INDIVIDUALS CARRYING OUT**
9 **AVIATION ACTIVITIES.**

10 (a) *IN GENERAL*.—Not later than 18 months after the
11 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall up-
12 date regulations, including in part 67 of title 14, Code of
13 Federal Regulations, and issue relevant guidance as appro-
14 priate to encourage individuals to—

15 (1) seek help for mental health conditions or
16 symptoms of mental health conditions; and

17 (2) to disclose conditions or symptoms described
18 in paragraph (1).

19 (b) *SOLICIT FEEDBACK; REPORT REQUIREMENTS*.—
20 Section 411(d) of the *FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024* (49
21 U.S.C. 44703 note) is amended—

22 (1) in paragraph (3), by striking subparagraph
23 (B) and inserting the following:

24 “(B) soliciting feedback from aviation in-
25 dustry professionals or other licensed profes-

sionals representing air carrier operations under
 part 121 and part 135 of title 14, Code of Fed-
 eral Regulations, and general aviation oper-
 ations under part 91 of title 14, Code of Federal
 Regulations, the exclusive bargaining representa-
 tives of air traffic controllers of the FAA certified
 under section 7111 of title 5, United States Code,
 organizations representing collective bargaining
 representatives of airline pilots, institutions of
 higher education that are accredited by the Avia-
 tion Accreditation Board International, and pro-
 fessional pilot flight training schools certificated
 under part 141 of title 14, Code of Federal Regu-
 lations;” and

(2) in paragraph (4)—

(A) in subparagraphs (A) and (B), by strik-
 ing “and” at the end;

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

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

“(D) a review and evaluation of any rec-
 ommendations reached by the National Trans-
 portation Safety Board related to aviation work-
 force mental health; and

1 “(E) a description of relevant clinical stud-
 2 ies, research, diagnostic manuals, and protocols
 3 relied upon by the task group in developing their
 4 recommendations.”.

5 (c) *IMPLEMENTATION.*—

6 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 180 days after
 7 the date of enactment of this Act, and for any report
 8 issued thereafter, not later than 180 days after the
 9 submission of each report required under section
 10 411(f) of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 (49
 11 U.S.C. 44703 note), the Administrator may take ac-
 12 tion, as appropriate, to implement the recommenda-
 13 tions of such report.

14 (2) *JUSTIFICATION.*—In the event that the Ad-
 15 ministrator decides not to implement a recommenda-
 16 tion described in paragraph (1), the Administrator
 17 shall submit to the appropriate committees of Con-
 18 gress the justification for such decision not later than
 19 90 days after receiving the report containing such rec-
 20 ommendation.

21 **SEC. 4. REVIEW OF MENTAL HEALTH SPECIAL ISSUANCE**
 22 **PROCESS.**

23 Beginning on the date that is 180 days after the Ad-
 24 ministrator submits the first report pursuant to section
 25 411(f) of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 (49 U.S.C.

1 44703 note), and annually for the 1st 2 years thereafter,
2 and triennially thereafter, the Administrator shall conduct
3 a review of the special issuance process, and update, as ap-
4 propriate, the applicable regulations, policies, orders, and
5 guidance on mental health-related special issuance for pilots
6 and air traffic controllers to—

7 (1) consider the reclassification of additional
8 medications and evidence-based treatments that may
9 be safely prescribed to treat mental health conditions;

10 (2) provide enhanced mental health knowledge
11 and training for aviation medical examiners, con-
12 sistent with the recommendations of the Mental
13 Health & Aviation Medical Clearances Aviation Rule-
14 making Committee described in section 6;

15 (3) if the Administrator determines appropriate,
16 consider expanding opportunities in which an avia-
17 tion medical examiner may issue a certificate con-
18 sistent with the recommendations of the Mental
19 Health & Aviation Medical Clearances Aviation Rule-
20 making Committee described in section 6, provided
21 that such examiner has completed enhanced mental
22 health training, as described in paragraph (2), to en-
23 sure such personnel have the requisite knowledge and
24 ability to appropriately evaluate individuals for FAA
25 medical certification; and

1 (4) *improve the special issuance process for pi-*
 2 *lots and air traffic controllers.*

3 **SEC. 5. IMPROVING CAPACITY FOR THE OFFICE OF AERO-**
 4 **SPACE MEDICINE.**

5 *Of the amounts made available pursuant to section*
 6 *106(k)(1) of title 49, United States Code, the Administrator*
 7 *shall designate not more than \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal*
 8 *years 2026 through 2028 to—*

9 (1) *recruit, select, and train additional aviation*
 10 *medical examiners and human intervention motiva-*
 11 *tion study aviation medical examiners, including*
 12 *those who are psychiatrists;*

13 (2) *expand capacity to provide oversight of avia-*
 14 *tion medical examiners and clear the backlog of spe-*
 15 *cial issuance requests and cases awaiting review at*
 16 *the Office of Aerospace Medicine of the FAA;*

17 (3) *provide enhanced mental health training to*
 18 *aviation medical examiners to ensure such personnel*
 19 *have requisite knowledge and the ability to appro-*
 20 *priately evaluate individuals for FAA medical certifi-*
 21 *cation; and*

22 (4) *support any other related activities, as deter-*
 23 *mined appropriate by the Administrator.*

1 **SEC. 6. IMPLEMENTATION OF AVIATION RULEMAKING COM-**
2 **MITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.**

3 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—Not later than 2 years after the
4 date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall im-
5 plement, as appropriate, the recommendations of the Mental
6 Health & Aviation Medical Clearances Aviation Rule-
7 making Committee, which were submitted to the Adminis-
8 trator on April 1, 2024 (in this section referred to as the
9 “ARC”).

10 (b) *CONSULTATION.*—In carrying out subsection (a),
11 the Administrator shall consult with the stakeholders de-
12 scribed in section 411(d)(3)(B) of the FAA Reauthorization
13 Act of 2024 (as amended by this Act).

14 (c) *VALIDATION.*—With respect to recommendation 6
15 of the ARC, the Administrator shall leverage and cite rel-
16 evant clinical studies, research, diagnostic manuals, and
17 protocols to inform the recommendation, as determined by
18 the Administrator. The Administrator may, as appropriate,
19 commission any such studies that may be needed to fill data
20 gaps. Any such studies shall document the data gap and
21 be completed not later than 1 year after the enactment of
22 this Act.

23 (d) *JUSTIFICATION.*—If the Administrator decides not
24 to implement a recommendation described in the ARC, the
25 Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees

1 of Congress their justification for such decision not later
 2 than 90 days after the deadline described in such subsection.

3 **SEC. 7. PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN.**

4 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—For fiscal years 2026 through 2028,
 5 the Administrator shall carry out a public information
 6 campaign or similar public education efforts to—

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

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

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

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

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

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

24 (B) *other information to effectuate the out-*
 25 *comes 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 Regula-*
 7 *tions), and small, medium, and large hub airports (as*
 8 *defined in such section 40102) to encourage such enti-*
 9 *ties to make such information easily accessible to air-*
 10 *men and air traffic controllers.*

11 *(c) BRIEFING AND REPORT TO CONGRESS.—*

12 (1) *BRIEFING.—Not later than 90 days after the*
 13 *Administrator establishes the public information cam-*
 14 *paign described in subsection (a), the Administrator*
 15 *shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress on*
 16 *the actions taken to develop the campaign and the*
 17 *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*
 24 *feedback from aviation industry stakeholders on the*
 25 *efficacy of the campaign.*

Calendar No. 558

119TH CONGRESS
2^D Session

S. 3257

[Report No. 119-139]

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.

SEPTEMBER 14, 2026

Reported with an amendment