

and triennially thereafter, the Administrator shall conduct a review of the special issuance process, and update, as appropriate, the applicable regulations, policies, orders, and guidance on mental health-related special issuance for pilots and air traffic controllers to—

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

(2) provide enhanced mental health knowledge and training for aviation medical examiners, consistent with the recommendations of the Mental Health & Aviation Medical Clearances Aviation Rulemaking Committee described in section 6;

(3) if the Administrator determines appropriate, consider expanding opportunities in which an aviation medical examiner may issue a certificate consistent with the recommendations of the Mental Health & Aviation Medical Clearances Aviation Rulemaking Committee described in section 6, provided that such examiner has completed enhanced mental health training, as described in paragraph (2), to ensure such personnel have the requisite knowledge and ability to appropriately evaluate individuals for FAA medical certification; and

(4) improve the special issuance process for pilots and air traffic controllers.

SEC. 5. IMPROVING CAPACITY FOR THE OFFICE OF AEROSPACE MEDICINE.

Section 106(k)(2) of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(E) Not more than \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2028 to—

“(i) recruit, select, and train additional aviation medical examiners and human intervention motivation study aviation medical examiners, including those who are psychiatrists;

“(ii) expand capacity to provide oversight of aviation medical examiners and clear the backlog of special issuance requests and cases awaiting review at the Office of Aerospace Medicine of the FAA;

“(iii) provide enhanced mental health training to aviation medical examiners to ensure such personnel have requisite knowledge and the ability to appropriately evaluate individuals for FAA medical certification; and

“(iv) support any other related activities, as determined appropriate by the Administrator.”.

SEC. 6. IMPLEMENTATION OF AVIATION RULEMAKING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall implement, as appropriate, the recommendations of the Mental Health & Aviation Medical Clearances Aviation Rulemaking Committee, which were submitted to the Administrator on April 1, 2024 (in this section referred to as the “ARC”).

(b) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Administrator shall consult with the stakeholders described in section 411(d)(3)(B) of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 (as amended by this Act).

(c) VALIDATION.—With respect to recommendation 6 of the ARC, the Administrator shall leverage and cite relevant clinical studies, research, diagnostic manuals, and protocols to inform the recommendation, as determined by the Administrator. The Administrator may, as appropriate, commission any such studies that may be needed to fill data gaps. Any such studies shall document the data gap and be completed not later than 1 year after the enactment of this Act.

(d) JUSTIFICATION.—If the Administrator decides not to implement a recommendation

described in the ARC, the Administrator shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress their justification for such decision not later than 90 days after the deadline described in such subsection.

SEC. 7. PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN.

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

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

(2) broaden awareness of available supportive services; and

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

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The public information campaign or similar public education efforts described in subsection (a) shall include—

(1) making publicly available (in an easily accessible format and location online)—

(A) information that would help destigmatize the reporting of mental health concerns impacting the aviation workforce, and encourage individuals to seek help for such concerns; and

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

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

(3) collaborating with air carriers (as defined in section 40102 of title 49, United States Code), flight training institutions and entities (as described in parts 61 and 141 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations), and small, medium, and large hub airports (as defined in such section 40102) to encourage such entities to make such information easily accessible to airmen and air traffic controllers.

(c) BRIEFING AND REPORT TO CONGRESS.—

(1) BRIEFING.—Not later than 90 days after the Administrator establishes the public information campaign described in subsection (a), the Administrator shall brief the appropriate committees of Congress 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 appropriate 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.

SA 6835. Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. MURPHY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 6776 proposed by Mr. THUNE (for Mr. CRUZ for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. SCHMITT, and Mr. COONS)) to the bill S. 4668, to protect the name, image, and likeness rights of, and provide protections for, student athletes and to promote fair competition among intercollegiate athletics, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Insert after section 112 the following:

SEC. 112A. TRANSFER PROTECTIONS FOR COACHES.

Subject to the requirements and prohibitions regarding mid-season coaching transitions under section 110, an institution, a conference, an intercollegiate athletic association, or any representative of such entity shall permit a coach to transfer from one four-year institution to another four-year institution—

(1) once without losing or delaying eligibility to coach intercollegiate sports;

(2) except as provided in paragraph (3), a second time with a loss of eligibility to coach intercollegiate sports during the first academic year following the transfer; and

(3) additionally, without losing or delaying eligibility to coach intercollegiate sports, upon—

(A) discontinuation of a sport that the individual coaches; or

(B) sexual assault or harassment of the coach by an individual associated with the institution from which the coach intends to transfer.

Insert after section 114 the following:

SEC. 114A. TREATMENT OF COMPENSATION FOR COACHES.

(a) ENDORSEMENT CONTRACTS.—

(1) COMPENSATION REQUIREMENT.—Any endorsement contract for a coach of a varsity sports team shall be invalid unless the contract is for a valid business purpose and is commensurate with compensation paid to individuals with a similar profile, reputation, or notability who are not coaches or prospective coaches.

(2) DISCLOSURE.—Each institution shall include in the disclosures required under section 104(a)(1) information on any endorsement contracts in force with respect to any coach of a varsity sports team at that institution.

(b) CAP FOR CONTRACT BUYOUTS AND TERMINATION FEES FOR COACHES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any contract buyout or termination fee payable to a coach of a varsity sports team may not exceed an amount equal to the greatest annual compensation paid to the coach under that contract, excluding bonuses.

(2) APPLICATION.—Paragraph (1) shall apply to any contract for a coach of a varsity sports team entered into on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) SALARY CAP FOR COACHES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), an institution may not provide compensation to a coach of a varsity sports team that exceeds \$5,000,000 per year.

(2) APPLICATION.—Paragraph (1) shall apply to any agreement related to compensation for a coach of a varsity sports team entered into on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I have six requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet in closed session during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 24, 2026, at 9:30 a.m.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 24, 2026, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.