

Calendar No. 635

116TH CONGRESS }
2d Session }

SENATE

{ REPORT
{ 116-329

PROMOTING SERVICE IN TRANSPORTATION
ACT

R E P O R T

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION

ON

S. 3303



DECEMBER 15, 2020.—Ordered to be printed

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

ONE HUNDRED SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

SECOND SESSION

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PROMOTING SERVICE IN TRANSPORTATION ACT

DECEMBER 15, 2020.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. WICKER, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
Transportation, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany S. 3303]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, to which was referred the bill (S. 3303) to amend title 49, United States Code, to promote transportation career opportunities and improve diversity in the workforce, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment (in the nature of a substitute) and recommends that the bill (as amended) do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of S. 3303, the Promoting Service in Transportation Act, is to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to establish and administer a transportation outreach program seeking to help fill projected job vacancies and bolster diversity in the transportation sector.

BACKGROUND AND NEEDS

The transportation industry represents over 8 percent of gross domestic product, and the transportation system itself serves as the backbone of the U.S. economy.¹ Since all sectors of the economy rely on a fully functioning transportation system, the economic impact of the deepening workforce shortage, as well as the gap in leadership due to retirements, is predicted to cause wide-reaching

¹Eno Center for Transportation, “Navigating the Transportation Industry Workforce Shortage and Leadership Gap—The Solution Is Hiding in Plain Sight”, Aug. 27, 2019 (<https://www.enotrans.org/article/navigating-the-transportation-industry-workforce-shortage-and-leadership-gap-the-solution-is-hiding-in-plain-sight/>) (accessed Aug. 17, 2020).

national effects.² In the aviation sector, air travel demand, pilot retirements, and high training costs have all contributed to projected vacancies of qualified professionals in the industry.³ Boeing predicts that North America will need 212,000 new pilots, 176,000 new cabin crew, and 193,000 new technicians over the next 20 years.⁴

Across surface transportation, workforce challenges are also contributing to vacancies of current and future qualified professionals. For instance, the long-distance truckload freight sector has traditionally experienced a high turnover rate, which places strain on the workforce needs within the industry. Transit agencies also have reported workforce concerns. According to the Regional Transportation District (RTD) in Denver, Colorado, the agency is facing an historic labor shortage because of the strong economy and low unemployment rate, coupled with rapid expansion of commuter and light rail lines in the past 3 years. In the past 33 months, RTD hired 791 new bus drivers, but lost 710.⁵

Along with projected job vacancies, the transportation workforce is also less diverse than some industries. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), over 90 percent of professional pilots and flight engineers and over 75 percent of truck drivers are white males.⁶ Moreover, women and other minorities are historically underrepresented workers in the transportation industry, yet make up a large percentage of the U.S. labor force.⁷ According to BLS, in 2018 women made up nearly 47 percent of the U.S. workforce, but based on a recent study by the Mineta Transportation Institute, women only account for 15 percent of the U.S. transportation industry workforce.⁸ The Promoting Service in Transportation Act aims to reduce the shortages of professionals and promote diversity in the industry through a series of public service announcement campaigns during each of fiscal years 2021 through 2026.

SUMMARY OF PROVISIONS

If enacted, S. 3303 would do the following:

- Authorize the Secretary of Transportation to establish and administer a transportation workforce outreach program through public service announcement campaigns during fiscal years 2021 through 2026 to increase awareness of career opportuni-

²Id.

³Tammy Waitt, “Congress & Industry Unite for Aviation Workforce & National Aviation Center,” Mar. 1, 2020, American Security Today (<https://americansecuritytoday.com/congress-industry-unite-for-aviation-workforce-national-aviation-center/>) (accessed Aug. 17, 2020).

⁴Boeing, “Pilot & Technician Outlook 2019–2038” (<https://www.boeing.com/commercial/market/pilot-technician-outlook/>) (accessed Aug. 17, 2020).

⁵Associated Press, “Denver Area Transit System Struggles With Worker Shortage,” Nov. 23, 2019, *U.S. News* (<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/colorado/articles/2019-11-23/denver-area-transit-system-struggles-with-worker-shortage>) (accessed Aug. 17, 2020); Aaron Short, “Driver Shortages Causing Transit Delays Nationwide,” Aug. 27, 2019, *Streetsblog USA* (<https://usa.streetsblog.org/2019/08/27/driver-shortages-causing-transit-delays-nationwide/>) (accessed Aug. 17, 2020).

⁶U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, “Labor Force Statistics From the Current Population Survey,” Jan. 22, 2020 (<https://www.bls.gov/cps/cpsaat11.htm>) (accessed Aug. 17, 2020).

⁷Eno Center for Transportation, “Navigating the Transportation Industry Workforce Shortage and Leadership Gap—The Solution Is Hiding in Plain Sight,” Aug. 27, 2019 (<https://www.enotrans.org/article/navigating-the-transportation-industry-workforce-shortage-and-leadership-gap-the-solution-is-hiding-in-plain-sight/>) (accessed Aug. 17, 2020).

⁸Bureau of Labor Statistics, “Labor Force Statistics From the Current Population Survey,” Jan. 22, 2020 (<https://www.bls.gov/cps/cpsaat18.htm>) (accessed Aug. 17, 2020); Roger Rudick, “Women Account for 15 Percent of Transportation Workforce,” Feb. 12, 2019, *Streetsblog SF* (<https://sf.streetsblog.org/2019/02/12/women-account-for-15-percent-of-transportation-workforce/>) (accessed Aug. 17, 2020).

- ties, as well as promote diversity, in the transportation sector; and
- Authorize the Secretary to use funds otherwise made available, not to exceed \$5 million for each fiscal year, to carry out the program.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

S. 3303, the Promoting Service in Transportation Act, was introduced on February 13, 2020, by Senator Peters (for himself and Senators Sullivan, Rosen, Gardner, and Cortez Masto) and was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate. On March 11, 2020, the Committee met in open Executive Session and, by voice vote, ordered S. 3303 reported favorably with an amendment (in the nature of a substitute).

ESTIMATED COSTS

In accordance with paragraph 11(a) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate and section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee provides the following cost estimate, prepared by the Congressional Budget Office:

S. 3303, Promoting Service in Transportation Act			
As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on March 11, 2020			
By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2020	2020-2025	2020-2030
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	0	24	30
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No	Mandate Effects	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2031?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

S. 3303 would authorize the appropriation of \$5 million annually over the 2021–2026 period for the Department of Transportation to create a program to increase awareness of career opportunities in the US. Transportation sector. Those opportunities would include pilots, truck drivers, safety inspectors, mechanics, and flight attendants, among others.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts and based on spending patterns for similar programs, CBO estimates that implementing S. 3303 would cost \$24 million over the 2020–2025 period and \$6 million after 2025. The costs of the legislation fall under budget function 400 (transportation).

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Robert Reese. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

REGULATORY IMPACT STATEMENT

In accordance with paragraph 11(b) of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee provides the following evaluation of the regulatory impact of the legislation, as reported:

NUMBER OF PERSONS COVERED

S. 3303, as reported, would not impose any new regulatory requirements on businesses.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

S. 3303, as reported, is not expected to have an adverse impact on the Nation's economy.

PRIVACY

S. 3303, as reported, is not expected to have an adverse impact on the personal privacy of individuals.

PAPERWORK

S. 3303, as reported, would not increase the paperwork requirements for private individuals or businesses. The bill would establish a transportation outreach program seeking to help fill projected job vacancies and bolster diversity in the transportation sector.

CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING

In compliance with paragraph 4(b) of rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee provides that no provisions contained in the bill, as reported, meet the definition of congressionally directed spending items under the rule.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS

Section 1. Short title.

This section would provide that the bill may be cited as the "Promoting Service in Transportation Act".

Section 2. Transportation workforce outreach program.

This section would authorize the Secretary of Transportation to establish and administer a transportation workforce outreach program through public service announcement campaigns during fiscal years 2021 through 2026. The purpose of the campaigns would be to increase awareness of career opportunities, as well as promote diversity, in the transportation sector. This section also would amend 49 U.S.C. chapter 55 to authorize not more than \$5 million per year from amounts otherwise available to the Secretary of Transportation to carry out the program for development, production, advertisements, and outreach initiatives.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with paragraph 12 of rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted

is enclosed in black brackets, new material is printed in italic, existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

UNITED STATES CODE

* * * * *

TITLE 49—TRANSPORTATION

* * * * *

Subtitle III—General and Intermodal Programs

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CHAPTER 55—INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION

[Table of sections]

CHAPTER 55—INTERMODAL TRANSPORTATION

SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL

Sec.

5501. National Intermodal Transportation System policy.

5502. Intermodal Transportation Advisory Board.

[5503. Repealed.]

5504. Model intermodal transportation plans.

5505. University transportation centers program.

[5506. Repealed.]

5506. *Transportation workforce outreach program.*

* * * * *

Subchapter I—General

§ 5501. * * *

* * * * *

§ 5505. * * *

§ 5506. *Transportation workforce outreach program*

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary of Transportation (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”) shall establish and administer a transportation workforce outreach program, under which the Secretary shall carry out a series of public service announcement campaigns during each of fiscal years 2021 through 2026.

(b) *PURPOSES.*—The purpose of the campaigns carried out under the program under this section shall be—

(1) to increase awareness of career opportunities in the transportation sector, including aviation pilots, safety inspectors, mechanics and technicians, air traffic controllers, flight attendants, truck drivers, engineers, transit workers, railroad workers, and other transportation professionals; and

(2) to target awareness of professional opportunities in the transportation sector to diverse segments of the population, in-

cluding with respect to race, sex, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status.

(c) ADVERTISING.—The Secretary may use, or authorize the use of, amounts made available to carry out the program under this section for the development, production, and use of broadcast, digital, and print media advertising and outreach in carrying out a campaign under this section.

(d) FUNDING.—For each of fiscal years 2021 through 2026, the Secretary may use to carry out this section any amounts otherwise made available to the Secretary, not to exceed \$5,000,000 for each fiscal year.

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