

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2499

To amend title 49, United States Code, to prohibit the operation of certain aircraft not complying with stage 4 noise levels.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 13, 1999

Mr. WEINER (for himself, Mr. HYDE, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. SHAYS, Ms. RIVERS, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. STARK, Mr. KING, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. SERRANO, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. LARSON, Mr. HALL of Ohio, Ms. LEE, and Mr. CAPUANO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, to prohibit the operation of certain aircraft not complying with stage 4 noise levels.

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 “Silent Skies Act of
5 1999”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

1 (1) aircraft and airport noise is one of the most
2 common “quality of life” nuisance issues in neigh-
3 borhoods throughout the United States; and

4 (2) European countries are already moving to-
5 ward aircraft that comply with stage 4 aircraft noise
6 levels.

7 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON OPERATING CERTAIN AIRCRAFT**
8 **NOT COMPLYING WITH STAGE 4 NOISE LEV-**
9 **ELS.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 475 of
11 title 49, United States Code, is amended—

12 (1) by redesignating sections 47529 through
13 47533 as sections 47530 through 47534, respec-
14 tively; and

15 (2) by inserting after section 47528 the fol-
16 lowing:

17 **“§ 47529. Limitation on operating certain aircraft not**
18 **complying with stage 4 noise levels**

19 “(a) REGULATIONS.—Not later than December 3,
20 2001, the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation
21 with the International Civil Aviation Organization, shall
22 issue regulations to establish minimum standards for civil
23 turbojets to comply with stage 4 noise levels.

1 “(b) GENERAL RULE.—The Secretary shall issue
2 regulations to ensure that, except as provided in section
3 47530—

4 “(1) 50 percent of the civil turbojets with a
5 maximum weight of more than 75,000 pounds oper-
6 ating after December 31, 2006, to or from airports
7 in the United States comply with the stage 4 noise
8 levels established under subsection (a); and

9 “(2) 100 percent of such turbojets operating
10 after December 31, 2011, to or from airports in the
11 United States comply with the stage 4 noise levels.

12 “(c) PRIORITY FOR HIGH DENSITY AIRPORTS.—The
13 Secretary shall issue regulations to ensure that air car-
14 riers, in purchasing and using civil turbojets that comply
15 with stage 4 noise levels, give priority to using such turbo-
16 jets to provide air transportation to or from high density
17 airports (as such term is defined under section 41714 on
18 January 1, 1999).

19 “(d) ANNUAL REPORT.—Beginning with calendar
20 year 2002—

21 “(1) each air carrier shall submit to the Sec-
22 retary an annual report on the progress the carrier
23 is making toward complying with the requirements
24 of this section and regulations issued to carry out
25 this section; and

(1) by redesignating the items relating to sections 47529 through 47533 as sections 47530 through 47534, respectively; and

“47529. Limitation on operating certain aircraft not complying with stage 4 noise levels.”.

14 (1) in subsection (a)—

16 (B) by striking “November 4, 1990” and
17 inserting “December 31, 2004”;

18 (C) by striking “stage 3” and inserting
19 “stage 4”; and

(D) by striking “November 5, 1990” and
inserting “January 1, 2005”;

(2) in subsection (b) by striking “stage 3” and inserting “stage 4”; and

1 (3) in subsection (c)(1) by striking “November
2 5, 1990” and inserting “January 1, 2005”

3 (d) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Such chapter is
4 further amended—

5 (1) in the chapter analysis—

6 (A) by striking “and 47529” in the item
7 relating to section 47531 (as redesignated by
8 subsection (b)(1) of this section) and inserting
9 “, 47529, and 47530”; and

10 (B) by striking “47530” in the item relat-
11 ing to section 47532 (as redesignated by sub-
12 section (b)(1) of this section) and inserting
13 “47531”;

14 (2) in the heading for section 47531 (as red-
15 igned by subsection (a)(1) of this section) by strik-
16 ing “and 47529” and inserting “, 47529, and
17 47530”;

18 (3) in section 47531 (as redesignated by sub-
19 section (a)(1) of this section)—

20 (A) by striking “and 47529” and inserting
21 “, 47529, and 47530”;

22 (B) by striking “subsonic”; and

23 (C) by striking “November 4, 1990” and
24 inserting “December 31, 2004”;

1 (4) in the heading for section 47532 (as reded-
2 ignated by subsection (a)(1) of this section) by strik-
3 ing “47530” and inserting “47531”;

4 (5) in section 47532 (as redesignated by sub-
5 section (a)(1) of this section) by striking “or 47530”
6 and inserting “, 47530, or 47531”; and

7 (6) in section 47533 (as redesignated by sub-
8 section (a)(1) of this section) by striking “47531”
9 and inserting “47532”.

10 **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

11 The amendments made by section 3 shall take effect
12 on the date of enactment of this Act; except the amend-
13 ments made by subsections (c), (d)(3)(B), and (d)(3)(C)
14 of section 3 shall take effect December 31, 2004.

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