

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 267

To amend title 49, United States Code, relating to the installation of
emergency locator transmitters on aircraft.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 6, 1999

Mr. SHAYS (for himself, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut, Mr. LARSON, and Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, relating to the
installation of emergency locator transmitters on aircraft.

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 “Airplane Emergency
5 Locator Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) On December 24, 1996, a plane piloted by
2 Johan Schwartz and Patrick Hayes disappeared
3 near Lebanon, New Hampshire.

4 (2) An extensive search was conducted by the
5 States of New Hampshire, Connecticut, Vermont,
6 New York, Maine, and Massachusetts, in coopera-
7 tion with the Federal Government, in an unsucces-
8 ful effort to locate the plane and any survivors.

9 (3) The plane was not required under law to
10 carry an emergency locator transmitter.

11 (4) Emergency locator transmitters have been
12 found to be very helpful in locating downed aircraft
13 and saving lives.

14 **SEC. 3. AIRPLANE EMERGENCY LOCATORS.**

15 (a) REQUIREMENT.—Section 44712(b) of title 49,
16 United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

17 “(b) NONAPPLICATION.—Subsection (a) does not
18 apply to aircraft when used in—

19 “(1) scheduled flights by scheduled air carriers
20 holding certificates issued by the Secretary of Trans-
21 portation under subpart II of this part;

22 “(2) training operations conducted entirely
23 within a 50-mile radius of the airport from which
24 the training operations begin;

1 “(3) flight operations related to the design and
2 testing, manufacture, preparation, and delivery of
3 aircraft;

4 “(4) showing compliance with regulations;

5 “(5) an exhibition or air racing; or

6 “(6) the aerial application of a substance for an
7 agricultural purpose.”.

8 (b) COMPLIANCE.—Section 44712 is amended by re-
9 designating subsection (c) as subsection (d) and by insert-
10 ing after subsection (b) the following:

11 “(c) COMPLIANCE.—An aircraft is deemed to meet
12 the requirement of subsection (a) if it is equipped with
13 an emergency locator transmitter that transmits on the
14 121.5/243 megahertz frequency or the 406 megahertz fre-
15 quency, or with other equipment approved by the Sec-
16 retary for meeting the requirement of subsection (a).”.

17 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE; REGULATIONS.—

18 (1) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary of Trans-
19 portation shall promulgate regulations to carry out
20 section 44712(b) of title 49, United States Code, as
21 amended by this section not later than January 1,
22 2002.

1 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Except as provided in
2 paragraph (1), the amendments made by this section
3 shall take effect on January 1, 2002.

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