

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5675

To direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to revise hiring practices for air traffic controller positions, to establish an Air Traffic Control Education and Training Advisory Committee, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 19, 2014

Mr. HULTGREN (for himself and Mr. LIPINSKI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to revise hiring practices for air traffic controller positions, to establish an Air Traffic Control Education and Training Advisory Committee, 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 “Standards Addressing
5 Federal Transparency and Oversight With Evolving Re-
6 cruitment Specifications Act” or the “SAFE TOWERS
7 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. HIRING OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS.**

2 Section 44506 of title 49, United States Code, is
3 amended by adding at the end the following:

4 “(f) REVISION OF HIRING PRACTICES.—

5 “(1) CONSIDERATION OF APPLICANTS.—

6 “(A) PREFERENCE FOR AT-CTI AND VRA
7 APPLICANTS.—In appointing individuals to the
8 position of air traffic controller, the Adminis-
9 trator shall give preferential consideration to
10 the following applicants:

11 “(i) An individual who—

12 “(I) has successfully completed
13 air traffic controller training and
14 graduated from an institution partici-
15 pating in the Collegiate Training Ini-
16 tiative program maintained under
17 subsection (c)(1); and

18 “(II) has received an appropriate
19 recommendation from the institution.

20 “(ii) A qualified individual who is eli-
21 gible for a veterans recruitment appoint-
22 ment pursuant to section 4214 of title 38.

23 “(iii) A qualified individual who is an
24 eligible veteran, as such term is defined in
25 section 4211 of title 38, maintaining avia-
26 tion experience.

1 “(B) CONSIDERATION OF GENERAL PUB-
2 LIC APPLICANTS.—The Administrator may con-
3 sider general public applicants for the position
4 of air traffic controller only after completing
5 consideration of the applicants described in sub-
6 paragraph (A).

7 “(2) ELIMINATION OF BIOGRAPHICAL ASSESS-
8 MENTS.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
10 shall revise the hiring practices of the Adminis-
11 tration that apply to applicants for the position
12 of air traffic controller with the Department of
13 Transportation to eliminate the use of a bio-
14 graphical assessment or any other personality
15 test that unduly disqualifies applicants. The re-
16 vision under this subparagraph shall not be
17 subject to paragraph (3).

18 “(B) RECONSIDERATION OF APPLICANTS
19 DISQUALIFIED ON THE BASIS OF BIOGRAPHICAL
20 ASSESSMENTS.—

21 “(i) IN GENERAL.—If an individual
22 applied for the position of air traffic con-
23 troller with the Department in response to
24 the FG–01 Vacancy Announcement issued
25 on February 10, 2014, and was disquali-

1 fied from the position as the result of a bi-
2 ographical assessment, the Administrator
3 shall provide the applicant an opportunity
4 to reapply as soon as practicable for the
5 position under the revised hiring practices.

6 “(ii) WAIVER OF AGE RESTRICTION.—
7 The Administrator shall waive any max-
8 imum age restriction for the position of air
9 traffic controller with the Department that
10 would otherwise disqualify an individual
11 from the position if the individual—

12 “(I) is reapplying for the position
13 pursuant to clause (i) on or before
14 December 31, 2016; and

15 “(II) met the maximum age re-
16 quirement on the date of the individ-
17 ual’s previous application for the posi-
18 tion.

19 “(3) PARTICIPATION OF CTI INSTITUTIONS IN
20 REVISION OF HIRING PRACTICES.—Before making
21 any revision to the hiring practices that apply to ap-
22 plicants for the position of air traffic controller with
23 the Department, the Administrator shall provide the
24 Air Traffic Control Education and Training Advi-
25 sory Committee established under subsection (g) and

1 institutions of higher education participating in the
2 Collegiate Training Initiative program with notice of
3 the revision and an opportunity to comment.”.

4 **SEC. 3. COLLEGIATE TRAINING INITIATIVE.**

5 Section 44506(c)(1) of title 49, United States Code,
6 is amended—

7 (1) in the first sentence by striking “may main-
8 tain” and inserting “shall maintain”; and

9 (2) in the second sentence by striking “may es-
10 tablish” and inserting “, in consultation with the Air
11 Traffic Control Education and Training Advisory
12 Committee established under subsection (g), shall es-
13 tablish”.

14 **SEC. 4. AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL EDUCATION AND TRAINING**
15 **ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

16 Section 44506 of title 49, United States Code, is fur-
17 ther amended by adding at the end the following:

18 “(g) AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL EDUCATION AND
19 TRAINING ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

20 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator
21 shall establish an Air Traffic Control Education and
22 Training Advisory Committee (in this subsection re-
23 ferred to as the ‘Committee’).

24 “(2) DUTIES.—The Committee shall—

1 “(A) provide advice and recommendations
2 to the Administrator about the needs, objec-
3 tives, plans, and content of air traffic controller
4 training programs;

5 “(B) review the operations of the Colle-
6 giate Training Initiative program maintained
7 under subsection (c)(1);

8 “(C) establish standardized curriculum, re-
9 quired outcomes, and accreditation standards
10 for the Collegiate Training Initiative program;
11 and

12 “(D) annually review the air traffic con-
13 troller training initiatives carried out by the Ad-
14 ministration and provide advice and rec-
15 ommendations to the Administrator on whether
16 such initiatives are appropriate to meet the
17 needs of the air traffic controller workforce.

18 “(3) MEMBERSHIP.—

19 “(A) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The
20 Committee shall be composed of 9 members ap-
21 pointed by the Administrator as follows:

22 “(i) 2 individuals based on rec-
23 ommendations of the Association of Colle-
24 giate Training Institutions.

1 “(ii) 2 individuals based on rec-
2 ommendations of the National Air Traffic
3 Controllers Association.

4 “(iii) 2 individuals based on rec-
5 ommendations of the University Aviation
6 Association.

7 “(iv) 3 individuals selected by the Ad-
8 ministrator who meet the requirements of
9 subparagraph (B).

10 “(B) QUALIFICATIONS.—Individuals ap-
11 pointed pursuant to subparagraph (A)(iv)—

12 “(i) may not be employees of the Fed-
13 eral Aviation Administration; and

14 “(ii) shall be specifically qualified to
15 serve on the Committee as a result of their
16 education, training, and experience.

17 “(C) TERMS.—

18 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A member shall be
19 appointed for a term of 2 years.

20 “(ii) TERMS OF INITIAL AP-
21 POINTEES.—As designated by the Adminis-
22 trator at the time of appointment—

23 “(I) 1 of the members first ap-
24 pointed under each of subparagraphs

1 (A)(i), (A)(ii), and (A)(iii) shall be ap-
2 pointed for a term of 3 years; and

3 “(II) 2 of the members first ap-
4 pointed under subparagraph (A)(iv)
5 shall be appointed for terms of 3
6 years.

7 “(D) VACANCIES.—

8 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Any member ap-
9 pointed to fill a vacancy occurring before
10 the expiration of the term for which the
11 member’s predecessor was appointed shall
12 be appointed only for the remainder of that
13 term.

14 “(ii) INTERIM SERVICE.—A member
15 may serve after the expiration of that
16 member’s term until a successor has taken
17 office.

18 “(iii) MANNER OF APPOINTMENT.—A
19 vacancy in the Committee shall be filled in
20 the manner in which the original appoint-
21 ment was made.

22 “(E) PAY; TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Members
23 shall serve without pay but may receive travel
24 expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsist-
25 ence, when attending meetings of the Com-

1 mittee in accordance with applicable provisions
2 under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5.

3 “(F) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of
4 the Committee shall be elected by a majority of
5 the members.

6 “(G) MEETINGS.—The Committee shall
7 meet quarterly and may have additional meet-
8 ings at the call of the Chairperson.

9 “(4) ANNUAL REPORT.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than May
11 31st of each year, the Committee shall submit
12 to Congress and the Administrator an annual
13 report containing—

14 “(i) the findings and recommenda-
15 tions of the Committee; and

16 “(ii) beginning with the second annual
17 report, an assessment of whether or not
18 the Administrator has complied with the
19 Committee’s recommendations from the
20 previous year.

21 “(B) FAA COMMENTS.—Not later than 60
22 days after the date of submission of an annual
23 report that includes an assessment described in
24 subparagraph (A)(ii), the Administrator shall
25 submit to Congress and the Committee a report

1 containing the Administrator’s written response
2 to the assessment, including an explanation as
3 to why the Administrator did or did not comply
4 with each recommendation of the Committee.

5 “(5) TERMINATION.—Section 14(a)(2)(B) of
6 the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.;
7 relating to the termination of advisory committees)
8 shall not apply to the Committee.”.

9 **SEC. 5. BEST PRACTICES FOR TRAINING AIR TRAFFIC CON-**
10 **TROLLERS.**

11 Section 44506 of title 49, United States Code, is fur-
12 ther amended by adding at the end the following:

13 “(h) BEST PRACTICES FOR TRAINING.—The Admin-
14 istrator, in consultation with the Air Traffic Control Edu-
15 cation and Training Advisory Committee established
16 under subsection (g), shall take into consideration any lo-
17 cally developed training initiatives for air traffic control-
18 lers for use in establishing best practices nationwide.”.

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