

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1367

To amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to provide expedited air passenger screening to severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces and severely injured or disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 25, 2013

Mr. PRYOR (for himself and Ms. AYOTTE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to provide expedited air passenger screening to severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces and severely injured or disabled veterans, 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 “Helping Heroes Fly
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. OPERATIONS CENTER PROGRAM FOR SEVERELY IN-**
2 **JURED OR DISABLED MEMBERS OF THE**
3 **ARMED FORCES AND SEVERELY INJURED OR**
4 **DISABLED VETERANS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 449 of
6 title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
7 end the following new section:

8 **“§ 44927. Expedited screening for severely injured or**
9 **disabled members of the Armed Forces**
10 **and severely injured or disabled veterans**

11 “(a) PASSENGER SCREENING.—The Assistant Sec-
12 retary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Ad-
13 ministration), in consultation with the Secretary of De-
14 fense, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and organizations
15 that advocate on behalf of members of the Armed Forces
16 and veterans, including organizations that advocate on be-
17 half of severely injured or disabled members of the Armed
18 Forces and severely injured or disabled veterans, shall de-
19 velop and implement a process to facilitate the ease of
20 travel and to the extent possible provide expedited pas-
21 senger screening services for severely injured or disabled
22 members of the Armed Forces, severely injured or disabled
23 veterans, and their accompanying family members or non-
24 medical attendants. Such process shall be designed to pro-
25 tect the privacy of the individual being screened to the
26 maximum extent practicable.

1 “(b) OPERATIONS CENTER.—As part of the process
2 required under subsection (a), the Assistant Secretary
3 shall maintain an operations center to provide support and
4 facilitate the movement of severely injured or disabled
5 members of the Armed Forces and severely injured or dis-
6 abled veterans through screening prior to boarding a pas-
7 senger aircraft operated by an air carrier or foreign air
8 carrier in air transportation or intrastate air transpor-
9 tation. Such operations center shall be operational at all
10 times.

11 “(c) PROTOCOLS.—The Assistant Secretary shall—

12 “(1) establish and publish protocols, in con-
13 sultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Sec-
14 retary of Veterans Affairs, and organizations that
15 advocate on behalf of members of the Armed Forces
16 and veterans, including organizations that advocate
17 on behalf of severely injured or disabled members of
18 the Armed Forces and severely injured or disabled
19 veterans, under which a severely injured or disabled
20 member of the Armed Forces or severely injured or
21 disabled veteran, or the family member or other rep-
22 resentative of such a member or veteran, may con-
23 tact the operations center maintained under sub-
24 section (b) and request expedited screening services

1 described in subsection (a) for the member or vet-
2 eran; and

3 “(2) upon receipt of such a request, require
4 such operations center to notify the appropriate
5 Federal security director of the request to facilitate
6 the expedited passenger screening services described
7 in subsection (a) for the member or veteran.

8 “(d) TRAINING.—The Assistant Secretary shall inte-
9 grate training on the protocols established under sub-
10 section (c) into the training provided to all employees who
11 will provide the screening services described in subsection
12 (a).

13 “(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
14 tion affects the authority of the Assistant Secretary to re-
15 quire additional screening of a severely injured or disabled
16 member of the Armed Forces, a severely injured or dis-
17 abled veteran, or their accompanying family members or
18 nonmedical attendants, if intelligence, law enforcement, or
19 other information indicates that additional screening is
20 necessary.

21 “(f) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date
22 of the enactment of this section, and annually thereafter,
23 the Assistant Secretary shall submit to Congress a report
24 on the implementation of this section. Each such report
25 shall include each of the following:

1 “(1) Information on the training provided
2 under subsection (d).

3 “(2) Information on the consultations between
4 the Assistant Secretary and organizations that advo-
5 cate on behalf of members of the Armed Forces and
6 veterans as described in subsection (a).

7 “(3) The number of people who accessed the
8 operations center during the period covered by the
9 report.

10 “(4) Such other information as the Assistant
11 Secretary determines is appropriate.”.

12 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
13 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
14 after the item relating to section 44926 the following new
15 item:

“44927. Expedited screening for severely injured or disabled members of the
Armed Forces and severely injured or disabled veterans.”.

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