

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2623

To require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to establish a pilot program to provide flight training services to veterans.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 17, 2019

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

A BILL

To require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to establish a pilot program to provide flight training services to veterans.

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 “American Aviator
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PILOT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE FLIGHT TRAINING**
7 **SERVICES TO VETERANS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Federal
9 Aviation Administration (in this section referred to as the

1 “Administrator”), in consultation with the Secretary of
 2 Education and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall
 3 enter into agreements with flight schools to provide assist-
 4 ance in the form of grants to eligible entities to provide
 5 flight training services to veterans.

6 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—For purposes of this section,
 7 the term “eligible entity” means a pilot school that—

8 (1) holds a training certificate under part 141
 9 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations; and

10 (2) has an established employment pathway
 11 with at least one commercial air carrier operating
 12 under part 121 or 135 of title 14, Code of Federal
 13 Regulations.

14 (c) PRIORITY APPLICATION.—In selecting eligible en-
 15 tities to award grants to under this section, the Adminis-
 16 trator shall give priority to eligible entities that meet ei-
 17 ther of the following:

18 (1) The entity is accredited by the Department
 19 of Education.

20 (2) The entity holds a restricted airline trans-
 21 port pilot (R-ATP) letter of authorization, as speci-
 22 fied under part 61 of title 14, Code of Federal Reg-
 23 ulations.

1 (d) CONSIDERATIONS IN SELECTION.—In selecting
2 eligible entities to award grants to under this section, the
3 Administrator shall consider the following:

4 (1) The eligible entity's pass rate for students,
5 as measured by part 141 of title 14, Code of Federal
6 Regulations.

7 (2) The total estimated cost per veteran to com-
8 plete the eligible entity's program.

9 (3) The anticipated time from start of training
10 under the eligible entity's program to employment.

11 (4) The eligible entity's graduate placement
12 percentage.

13 (5) The eligible entity's use of advance tech-
14 nology and simulation.

15 (e) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts from a grant received
16 by an eligible entity under the pilot program shall be used
17 for the following:

18 (1) To case manage and support veterans for
19 flight training services.

20 (2) To provide guidance and flight training
21 services to the veterans enrolled, including additional
22 training required to reach proficiency, for the fol-
23 lowing certificates and ratings:

24 (A) Private pilot certificate.

25 (B) Instrument rating.

1 (C) Commercial pilot certificate.

2 (D) Multi-engine rating.

3 (E) Certificated flight instructor single en-
4 gine certificate, if applicable to degree sought.

5 (F) Certificated flight instructor multi en-
6 gine certificate, if applicable to degree sought.

7 (G) Certificated flight instructor instru-
8 ment certificate, if applicable to degree sought.

9 (3) To provide applicable program tuition,
10 books, training materials, and equipment.

11 (4) To provide periodic reports to the Adminis-
12 trator on use of the grant funds, including docu-
13 mentation of training completion of the certificates
14 and ratings described in subparagraphs (A) through
15 (F) of paragraph (2).

16 (f) COORDINATION WITH VETERANS EDUCATION
17 BENEFITS.—In the event a veteran participates in the
18 pilot program who is entitled to educational assistance for
19 veterans under the laws administered by the Secretary of
20 Veterans Affairs—

21 (1) any costs of the veteran in participation in
22 the pilot program that are covered by such edu-
23 cational assistance shall be borne by the veteran
24 using such educational assistance; and

1 (2) any costs incurred by the veteran in partici-
2 pation in the pilot program that are not covered by
3 such educational assistance, including the cost of a
4 private pilot license, may be borne by the eligible en-
5 tity concerned using grant amounts awarded to the
6 eligible entity for purposes of the pilot program.

7 (g) APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry out this section,
8 there is authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 for each
9 of the fiscal years 2020 through 2025.

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