

104TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 3159

AN ACT

To amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 1997, 1998, and 1999 for the National Transportation Safety Board, and for other purposes.

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To amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 1997, 1998, and 1999 for the National Transportation Safety Board, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “National Transpor-
3 tation Safety Board Amendments of 1996”.

4 **SEC. 2. TERMS OF OFFICE.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1111(d) of title 49, Unit-
6 ed States Code, is amended by striking the third sentence
7 and inserting the following: “The term of office of the
8 Chairman shall be 4 years and the term of the Vice Chair-
9 man shall be 2 years.”.

10 (b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by sub-
11 section (a) shall only apply to persons designated as Chair-
12 man of the National Transportation Safety Board after
13 the date of the enactment of this Act.

14 **SEC. 3. FOREIGN INVESTIGATIONS.**

15 Section 1114 of title 49, United States Code, is
16 amended—

17 (1) in subsection (a) by striking “(b) and (c)”
18 and inserting “(b), (c), and (e)”; and

19 (2) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(e) FOREIGN INVESTIGATIONS.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
22 provision of law, neither the Board, nor any agency
23 receiving information from the Board, shall disclose
24 records or information relating to its participation in
25 foreign aircraft accident investigations; except
26 that—

1 “(A) the Board shall release records per-
2 taining to such an investigation when the coun-
3 try conducting the investigation issues its final
4 report or 2 years following the date of the acci-
5 dent, whichever occurs first; and

6 “(B) the Board may disclose records and
7 information when authorized to do so by the
8 country conducting the investigation.

9 “(2) SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS.—Nothing in
10 this subsection shall restrict the Board at any time
11 from referring to foreign accident investigation in-
12 formation in making safety recommendations.”.

13 **SEC. 4. PROTECTION OF VOLUNTARY SUBMISSION OF IN-**
14 **FORMATION.**

15 Section 1114(b) of title 49, United States Code, is
16 amended by adding at the end the following:

17 “(3) PROTECTION OF VOLUNTARY SUBMISSION
18 OF INFORMATION.—Notwithstanding any other pro-
19 vision of law, neither the Board, nor any agency re-
20 ceiving information from the Board, shall disclose
21 voluntarily provided safety-related information if
22 that information is not related to the exercise of the
23 Board’s accident or incident investigation authority
24 under this chapter and if the Board finds that the

1 disclosure of the information would inhibit the vol-
2 untary provision of that type of information.”.

3 **SEC. 5. TRAINING.**

4 Section 1115 of title 49, United States Code, is
5 amended by adding at the end the following:

6 “(d) TRAINING OF BOARD EMPLOYEES AND OTH-
7 ERS.—The Board may conduct training of its employees
8 in those subjects necessary for the proper performance of
9 accident investigations. The Board may also authorize at-
10 tendance at courses given under this subsection by other
11 governmental personnel, personnel of foreign govern-
12 ments, and personnel from industry or otherwise who have
13 a requirement for accident investigation training. The
14 Board may require non-Board personnel to reimburse
15 some or all of the training costs, and amounts so reim-
16 bursed shall be credited to the appropriation of the ‘Na-
17 tional Transportation Safety Board, Salaries and Ex-
18 penses’ as offsetting collections.”.

19 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

20 Section 1118(a) of title 49, United States Code, is
21 amended—

22 (1) by striking “and”; and

23 (2) by inserting before the period at the end of
24 the first sentence the following: “, \$42,407,000 for

1 fiscal year 1997, \$44,460,000 for fiscal year 1998,
2 and \$45,040,000 for fiscal year 1999”.

3 **SEC. 7. REPORTS ON SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS.**

4 Section 1135(d) of title 49, United States Code, is
5 amended—

6 (1) by striking “January 1” and inserting
7 “January 31”;

8 (2) by inserting “or any other officer of the De-
9 partment of Transportation” after “to the Sec-
10 retary”; and

11 (3) by inserting “or such officer’s” after “the
12 Secretary’s”.

Passed the House of Representatives July 22, 1996.

Attest:

Clerk.