

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3159

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.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 26, 1996

Mr. SHUSTER (for himself, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. MOLINARI, and Mr. WISE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

6 **SEC. 2. TERMS OF OFFICE.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1111(d) of title 49, Unit-
8 ed States Code, is amended by striking the third sentence

1 and inserting the following: “The term of office of the
2 Chairman shall be 4 years and the term of Vice Chairman
3 shall be 2 years.”.

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

8 **SEC. 3. FOREIGN INVESTIGATIONS.**

9 Section 1114 of title 49, United States Code, is
10 amended—

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

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

14 “(e) FOREIGN INVESTIGATIONS.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
16 provision of law, neither the Board, nor any agency
17 receiving information from the Board, shall disclose
18 records or information relating to its participation in
19 foreign aircraft accident investigations; except
20 that—

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

1 “(B) the Board may disclose records and
2 information when authorized to do so by the
3 country conducting the investigation.

4 “(2) SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS.—Nothing in
5 this subsection shall restrict the Board at any time
6 from referring to foreign accident investigation in-
7 formation in making safety recommendations.”.

8 **SEC. 4. PROTECTION OF VOLUNTARY SUBMISSION OF IN-**
9 **FORMATION.**

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

12 “(3) PROTECTION OF VOLUNTARY SUBMISSION
13 OF INFORMATION.—Notwithstanding any other pro-
14 vision of law, neither the Board, nor any agency re-
15 ceiving information from the Board, shall disclose
16 voluntarily provided safety-related information if
17 that information is not related to the exercise of the
18 Board’s accident or incident investigation authority
19 under this chapter and if the Board finds that the
20 disclosure of the information would inhibit the vol-
21 untary provision of that type of information.”.

22 **SEC. 5. TRAINING.**

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

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

14 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

15 Section 1118(a) of title 49, United States Code, is
16 amended—

17 (1) by striking “and”; and

18 (2) by inserting before the period at the end of
19 the first sentence the following: “, \$40,300,000 for
20 fiscal year 1997, \$43,000,000 for fiscal year 1998,
21 and \$44,000,000 for fiscal year 1999”.

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

23 Section 1135(d) of title 49, United States Code, is
24 amended—

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

3 (2) by inserting “or any other officer of the De-
4 partment of Transportation” after “to the Sec-
5 retary”; and

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

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