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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for air traffic control training improvements, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BEGICH introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, to provide for air traffic control training improvements, 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 “Air Traffic Control
5 Workforce Development Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 Administration may appoint an individual who has
2 successfully completed a course of training in a pro-
3 gram described in paragraph (1) to the position of
4 air traffic controller noncompetitively in the excepted
5 service (as defined in section 2103 of title 5). An in-
6 dividual appointed under this paragraph serves at
7 the pleasure of the Administrator, subject to section
8 7511 of title 5. However, an appointment under this
9 paragraph may be converted from one in the ex-
10 cepted service to a career conditional or career ap-
11 pointment in the competitive civil service (as defined
12 in section 2102 of title 5) when the individual
13 achieves full performance level air traffic controller
14 status, as determined by the Administrator.

15 “(3) ENHANCED-CTI GRANT PROGRAM.—

16 “(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Adminis-
17 trator of the Federal Aviation Administration
18 shall establish and carry out a grant program
19 to award grants to institutions of higher edu-
20 cation (as defined by the Administrator) that
21 have been approved to, or are seeking to (as de-
22 termined appropriate by the Administrator),
23 participate in the Enhanced-Collegiate Training
24 Initiative program described in paragraph (1).

25 “(B) GRANTS.—

1 “(i) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose
2 of carrying out the grant program estab-
3 lished under subparagraph (A), the Sec-
4 retary shall make grants to institutions of
5 higher education.

6 “(ii) USE OF FUNDS.—An institution
7 of higher education shall use a grant
8 awarded under this paragraph for the fol-
9 lowing purposes:

10 “(I) To develop curriculum for
11 the Enhanced-Collegiate Training Ini-
12 tiative program required under para-
13 graph (1).

14 “(II) To provide faculty, simula-
15 tors, and other necessary classroom
16 supplies (including medical certificates
17 and FAA-required tests) to the En-
18 hanced-Collegiate Training Initiative
19 program.

20 “(III) For any other purpose de-
21 termined appropriate by the Adminis-
22 trator of the Federal Aviation Admin-
23 istration.

24 “(iii) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to
25 receive a grant under this paragraph, an

1 institution of higher education shall submit
2 an application to the Administrator of the
3 Federal Aviation Administration at such
4 time, in such form, and containing such in-
5 formation as the Administrator may re-
6 quire.

7 “(iv) FUNDING.—There is authorized
8 to be appropriated \$20,000,000 for each of
9 fiscal years 2026 through 2031 to carry
10 out this paragraph.”.

11 (b) ENHANCED-COLLEGIATE TRAINING INITIATIVE
12 PROGRAM FACULTY ANNUITY SUPPLEMENT.—Section
13 8421a(c) of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

14 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “; or” and in-
15 serting a semicolon;

16 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at
17 the end and inserting “; or”; and

18 (3) by adding at the end the following new
19 paragraph:

20 “(3) air traffic control instructor, or supervisor
21 thereof, at an institution of higher education partici-
22 pating in the Enhanced-Collegiate Training Initia-
23 tive program described in section 44506(c) of title
24 49.”.

1 (c) FAA ACADEMY AND COLLEGIATE TRAINING INI-
2 TIATIVE PROGRAM CURRICULUM AVIATION RULEMAKING
3 COMMITTEE.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall con-
5 vene an aviation rulemaking committee to—

6 (A) review—

7 (i) the curricula of the air traffic tech-
8 nical training academy of the FAA, the
9 Collegiate Training Initiative program, and
10 the Enhanced-Collegiate Training Initiative
11 program; and

12 (ii) the Air Traffic Skills Assessment
13 (in this section referred to as the “ATSA”)
14 exam;

15 (B) develop findings and recommendations
16 regarding the improvement and modernization
17 of such curricula and the ATSA exam; and

18 (C) provide to the Administrator a report
19 on such findings and recommendations and for
20 other related purposes as determined by the Ad-
21 ministrator.

22 (2) COMPOSITION.—The aviation rulemaking
23 committee established under paragraph (1) shall
24 consist of members appointed by the Administrator,
25 including representatives of—

1 (A) institutions of higher education that
2 are accredited by the Aviation Accreditation
3 Board International;

4 (B) aviation industry organizations;

5 (C) FAA subject matter experts;

6 (D) the exclusive bargaining representative
7 of the air traffic controllers certified under sec-
8 tion 7111 of title 5, United States Code; and

9 (E) other aviation safety experts deter-
10 mined appropriate by the Administrator.

11 (3) CONSIDERATIONS.—The aviation rule-
12 making committee established under paragraph (1)
13 shall consider the following:

14 (A) The advancements in education tech-
15 nology, including digital resources that may be
16 incorporated into a modern curriculum.

17 (B) The appropriate balance between the
18 use of theoretical knowledge and practical appli-
19 cation.

20 (C) A review of instructional techniques to
21 improve the effectiveness of learning outcomes.

22 (D) The real-world applicability of air traf-
23 fic operations procedures included in the cur-
24 riculum.

1 (E) Student success rates, including out-
2 comes of air traffic controller trainees when
3 placed at facilities for on-the-job training.

4 (F) Methods for reducing the subjectivity
5 of instructional techniques.

6 (G) Methods for improving the ATSA
7 exam to support controller facility placement
8 determinations.

9 (H) Student success rates correlated to the
10 Collegiate Training Initiative program and the
11 Enhanced-Collegiate Training Initiative pro-
12 gram described in section 44506(e) of title 49,
13 United States Code.

14 (I) Other considerations as determined ap-
15 propriate by the Administrator.

16 (4) DUTIES.—The Administrator shall—

17 (A) not later than 1 year after the date of
18 enactment of this section, submit to Congress a
19 copy of the aviation rulemaking committee re-
20 port provided to the Administrator under para-
21 graph (1)(C); and

22 (B) not later than 180 days after the date
23 of submission of the report under subparagraph
24 (A), in consultation with other agencies as de-
25 termined appropriate by the Administrator—

1 (i) initiate a rulemaking activity or
2 make such policy and guidance updates
3 necessary to address any consensus rec-
4 ommendations reached by the aviation
5 rulemaking committee; or

6 (ii) submit to Congress a supple-
7 mental report with an explanation for each
8 such consensus recommendation not adopt-
9 ed by the Administrator through an action
10 under clause (i).

11 (5) PROHIBITION ON COMPENSATION.—The
12 members of the aviation rulemaking committee con-
13 vened under this subsection shall not receive pay, al-
14 lowances, or benefits from the Federal Government
15 by reason of their service on such committee.

16 **SEC. 4. AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL TRAINING IMPROVEMENTS**
17 **AND RETENTION INCENTIVES.**

18 (a) FAA FACILITY TRAINING EQUIPMENT IMPROVE-
19 MENTS.—Section 415 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of
20 2024 (49 U.S.C. 44506 note) is amended by adding at
21 the end the following new subsection:

22 “(f) FUNDING.—There is authorized to be appro-
23 priated \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through
24 2031 for the purpose of the procurement and placement

1 of TSS at air traffic control facilities in the United States,
2 consistent with the requirements of this section.”.

3 (b) AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER QUALIFICATION IN-
4 CENTIVES AND RETENTION ENHANCEMENTS.—Section
5 44506 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by add-
6 ing at the end the following new subsection:

7 “(g) RETENTION BONUSES.—

8 “(1) CPC QUALIFICATION INCENTIVE.—The
9 Secretary of Transportation shall establish, in ac-
10 cordance with the requirements described in section
11 40122(a), a qualification incentive program for
12 trainees for the position of air traffic controller (as
13 defined in section 2109 of title 5, United States
14 Code) with the Department of Transportation.

15 “(2) ATC RETENTION INCENTIVE.—The Sec-
16 retary of Transportation shall establish, in accord-
17 ance with the requirements described in section
18 40122(a), a retention incentive program for air traf-
19 fic controllers (as defined in section 2109 of title 5,
20 United States Code) with the Department of Trans-
21 portation who are Certified Professional Control-
22 lers.”.

23 **SEC. 5. OTHER IMPROVEMENTS.**

24 (a) AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER MENTAL HEALTH
25 IMPROVEMENTS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days
2 after the date of enactment of this subsection, the
3 Administrator shall establish, in consultation with
4 aviation industry stakeholders and aviation medical
5 professionals, a training course to—

6 (A) support the development of mental
7 health providers with an innate knowledge and
8 understanding of the FAA criteria and decision
9 making regarding mental health conditions for
10 air traffic controllers; and

11 (B) develop advanced training programs
12 for Aviation Medical Examiners with respect to
13 mental health.

14 (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In establishing the
15 training course under paragraph (1), the Adminis-
16 trator shall consider—

17 (A) the feasibility of virtual and in-person
18 course offerings; and

19 (B) the need for an advisory board to en-
20 sure continuous improvement of the training
21 course.

22 (b) REPORT ON THE AIRPORT NON-COOPERATIVE
23 SURVEILLANCE RADAR PROGRAM.—Not later than 90
24 days after the date of enactment of this subsection, the
25 Administrator shall submit to the Committees on Com-

1 merce, Science, and Transportation and Appropriations of
2 the Senate and the Committees on Transportation and In-
3 frastructure and Appropriations of the House of Rep-
4 resentatives a report on the status of the Airport Non-
5 cooperative Surveillance Radar (in this subsection referred
6 to as “ANSR”) program, including—

7 (1) a determination of funding needs for the
8 ANSR program;

9 (2) a cost-benefit analysis of the most effective
10 solutions to provide ongoing ANSR services, includ-
11 ing a comparison of a sustainment approach versus
12 a replacement approach;

13 (3) an analysis of how the FAA intends to pro-
14 vide commercial service airports with the necessary
15 equipment, including radar, to detect and mitigate
16 any threat posed by non-cooperative flying objects,
17 including aircraft, unmanned aerial systems, bal-
18 loons, and other objects determined appropriate by
19 the Administrator;

20 (4) an update on the Radar Divestiture Pro-
21 gram;

22 (5) the projected lifecycle support needs of the
23 existing inventory of non-cooperative Airport Surveil-
24 lance Radar Models 8, 9, and 11; and

- 1 (6) any other information determined appro-
- 2 priate by the Administrator.