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(Original Signature of Member)

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R.

To direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to revise hiring practices for air traffic controller positions, to establish an Air Traffic Control Education and Training Advisory Committee, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. HULTGREN (for himself and Mr. LIPINSKI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to revise hiring practices for air traffic controller positions, to establish an Air Traffic Control Education and Training Advisory Committee, 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 “Standards Addressing
5 Federal Transparency and Oversight With Evolving Re-

1 recruitment Specifications Act” or the “SAFE TOWERS
2 Act”.

3 **SEC. 2. HIRING OF AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS.**

4 Section 44506 of title 49, United States Code, is
5 amended by adding at the end the following:

6 “(f) REVISION OF HIRING PRACTICES.—

7 “(1) CONSIDERATION OF APPLICANTS.—

8 “(A) PREFERENCE FOR AT-CTI AND VRA
9 APPLICANTS.—In appointing individuals to the
10 position of air traffic controller, the Adminis-
11 trator shall give preferential consideration to
12 the following applicants:

13 “(i) An individual who—

14 “(I) has successfully completed
15 air traffic controller training and
16 graduated from an institution partici-
17 pating in the Collegiate Training Ini-
18 tiative program maintained under
19 subsection (c)(1); and

20 “(II) has received an appropriate
21 recommendation from the institution.

22 “(ii) A qualified individual who is eli-
23 gible for a veterans recruitment appoint-
24 ment pursuant to section 4214 of title 38.

1 “(iii) A qualified individual who is an
2 eligible veteran, as such term is defined in
3 section 4211 of title 38, maintaining avia-
4 tion experience.

5 “(B) CONSIDERATION OF GENERAL PUB-
6 LIC APPLICANTS.—The Administrator may con-
7 sider general public applicants for the position
8 of air traffic controller only after completing
9 consideration of the applicants described in sub-
10 paragraph (A).

11 “(2) ELIMINATION OF BIOGRAPHICAL ASSESS-
12 MENTS.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator
14 shall revise the hiring practices of the Adminis-
15 tration that apply to applicants for the position
16 of air traffic controller with the Department of
17 Transportation to eliminate the use of a bio-
18 graphical assessment or any other personality
19 test that unduly disqualifies applicants. The re-
20 vision under this subparagraph shall not be
21 subject to paragraph (3).

22 “(B) RECONSIDERATION OF APPLICANTS
23 DISQUALIFIED ON THE BASIS OF BIOGRAPHICAL
24 ASSESSMENTS.—

1 “(i) IN GENERAL.—If an individual
2 applied for the position of air traffic con-
3 troller with the Department in response to
4 the FG–01 Vacancy Announcement issued
5 on February 10, 2014, and was disquali-
6 fied from the position as the result of a bi-
7 ographical assessment, the Administrator
8 shall provide the applicant an opportunity
9 to reapply as soon as practicable for the
10 position under the revised hiring practices.

11 “(ii) WAIVER OF AGE RESTRICTION.—
12 The Administrator shall waive any max-
13 imum age restriction for the position of air
14 traffic controller with the Department that
15 would otherwise disqualify an individual
16 from the position if the individual—

17 “(I) is reapplying for the position
18 pursuant to clause (i) on or before
19 December 31, 2016; and

20 “(II) met the maximum age re-
21 quirement on the date of the individ-
22 ual’s previous application for the posi-
23 tion.

24 “(3) PARTICIPATION OF CTI INSTITUTIONS IN
25 REVISION OF HIRING PRACTICES.—Before making

1 any revision to the hiring practices that apply to ap-
2 plicants for the position of air traffic controller with
3 the Department, the Administrator shall provide the
4 Air Traffic Control Education and Training Advi-
5 sory Committee established under subsection (g) and
6 institutions of higher education participating in the
7 Collegiate Training Initiative program with notice of
8 the revision and an opportunity to comment.”.

9 **SEC. 3. COLLEGIATE TRAINING INITIATIVE.**

10 Section 44506(c)(1) of title 49, United States Code,
11 is amended—

12 (1) in the first sentence by striking “may main-
13 tain” and inserting “shall maintain”; and

14 (2) in the second sentence by striking “may es-
15 tablish” and inserting “, in consultation with the Air
16 Traffic Control Education and Training Advisory
17 Committee established under subsection (g), shall es-
18 tablish”.

19 **SEC. 4. AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL EDUCATION AND TRAINING**
20 **ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

21 Section 44506 of title 49, United States Code, is fur-
22 ther amended by adding at the end the following:

23 “(g) AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL EDUCATION AND
24 TRAINING ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

1 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Administrator
2 shall establish an Air Traffic Control Education and
3 Training Advisory Committee (in this subsection re-
4 ferred to as the ‘Committee’).

5 “(2) DUTIES.—The Committee shall—

6 “(A) provide advice and recommendations
7 to the Administrator about the needs, objec-
8 tives, plans, and content of air traffic controller
9 training programs;

10 “(B) review the operations of the Colle-
11 giate Training Initiative program maintained
12 under subsection (c)(1);

13 “(C) establish standardized curriculum, re-
14 quired outcomes, and accreditation standards
15 for the Collegiate Training Initiative program;
16 and

17 “(D) annually review the air traffic con-
18 troller training initiatives carried out by the Ad-
19 ministration and provide advice and rec-
20 ommendations to the Administrator on whether
21 such initiatives are appropriate to meet the
22 needs of the air traffic controller workforce.

23 “(3) MEMBERSHIP.—

1 “(A) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The
2 Committee shall be composed of 9 members ap-
3 pointed by the Administrator as follows:

4 “(i) 2 individuals based on rec-
5 ommendations of the Association of Colle-
6 giate Training Institutions.

7 “(ii) 2 individuals based on rec-
8 ommendations of the National Air Traffic
9 Controllers Association.

10 “(iii) 2 individual based on rec-
11 ommendations of the University Aviation
12 Association.

13 “(iv) 3 individuals selected by the Ad-
14 ministrator who meet the requirements of
15 subparagraph (B).

16 “(B) QUALIFICATIONS.—Individuals ap-
17 pointed pursuant to subparagraph (A)(iv)—

18 “(i) may not be employees of the Fed-
19 eral Aviation Administration; and

20 “(ii) shall be specifically qualified to
21 serve on the Committee as a result of their
22 education, training, and experience.

23 “(C) TERMS.—

24 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A member shall be
25 appointed for a term of 2 years.

1 “(ii) TERMS OF INITIAL AP-
2 POINTEES.—As designated by the Adminis-
3 trator at the time of appointment—

4 “(I) 1 of the members first ap-
5 pointed under each of subparagraphs
6 (A)(i), (A)(ii), and (A)(iii) shall be ap-
7 pointed for a term of 3 years; and

8 “(II) 2 of the members first ap-
9 pointed under subparagraph (A)(iv)
10 shall be appointed for terms of 3
11 years.

12 “(D) VACANCIES.—

13 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Any member ap-
14 pointed to fill a vacancy occurring before
15 the expiration of the term for which the
16 member’s predecessor was appointed shall
17 be appointed only for the remainder of that
18 term.

19 “(ii) INTERIM SERVICE.—A member
20 may serve after the expiration of that
21 member’s term until a successor has taken
22 office.

23 “(iii) MANNER OF APPOINTMENT.—A
24 vacancy in the Committee shall be filled in

1 the manner in which the original appoint-
2 ment was made.

3 “(E) PAY; TRAVEL EXPENSES.—Members
4 shall serve without pay but may receive travel
5 expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsist-
6 ence, when attending meetings of the Com-
7 mittee in accordance with applicable provisions
8 under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5.

9 “(F) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of
10 the Committee shall be elected by a majority of
11 the members.

12 “(G) MEETINGS.—The Committee shall
13 meet quarterly and may have additional meet-
14 ings at the call of the Chairperson.

15 “(4) ANNUAL REPORT.—

16 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than May
17 31st of each year, the Committee shall submit
18 to Congress and the Administrator an annual
19 report containing—

20 “(i) the findings and recommenda-
21 tions of the Committee; and

22 “(ii) beginning with the second annual
23 report, an assessment of whether or not
24 the Administrator has complied with the

1 Committee’s recommendations from the
2 previous year.

3 “(B) FAA COMMENTS.—Not later than 60
4 days after the date of submission of an annual
5 report that includes an assessment described in
6 subparagraph (A)(ii), the Administrator shall
7 submit to Congress and the Committee a report
8 containing the Administrator’s written response
9 to the assessment, including an explanation as
10 to why the Administrator did or did not comply
11 with each recommendation of the Committee.

12 “(5) TERMINATION.—Section 14(a)(2)(B) of
13 the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.;
14 relating to the termination of advisory committees)
15 shall not apply to the Committee.”.

16 **SEC. 5. BEST PRACTICES FOR TRAINING AIR TRAFFIC CON-**
17 **TROLLERS.**

18 Section 44506 of title 49, United States Code, is fur-
19 ther amended by adding at the end the following:

20 “(h) BEST PRACTICES FOR TRAINING.—The Admin-
21 istrator, in consultation with the Air Traffic Control Edu-
22 cation and Training Advisory Committee established
23 under subsection (g), shall take into consideration any lo-
24 cally developed training initiatives for air traffic control-
25 lers for use in establishing best practices nationwide.”.