

Union Calendar No. 353

104TH CONGRESS  
2D Session

**H. R. 3159**

[Report No. 104-682]

**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.

JULY 17, 1996

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

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## 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

JULY 17, 1996

Additional sponsor: Ms. BROWN of Florida

JULY 17, 1996

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on March 26, 1996]

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## 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 Transportation*  
 5       *Safety Board Amendments of 1996”.*

6       **SEC. 2. TERMS OF OFFICE.**

7       *(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1111(d) of title 49, United*  
 8       *States Code, is amended by striking the third sentence and*  
 9       *inserting the following: “The term of office of the Chairman*  
 10       *shall be 4 years and the term of the Vice Chairman shall*  
 11       *be 2 years.”.*

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

16       **SEC. 3. FOREIGN INVESTIGATIONS.**

17       *Section 1114 of title 49, United States Code, is amend-*  
 18       *ed—*

19               *(1) in subsection (a) by striking “(b) and (c)”*  
 20       *and inserting “(b), (c), and (e)”;* and

21               *(2) by adding at the end the following:*

22       *“(e) FOREIGN INVESTIGATIONS.—*

23               *“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other*  
 24       *provision of law, neither the Board, nor any agency*  
 25       *receiving information from the Board, shall disclose*

1        *records or information relating to its participation in*  
 2        *foreign aircraft accident investigations; except that—*

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

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

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

15        **SEC. 4. PROTECTION OF VOLUNTARY SUBMISSION OF IN-**  
 16                **FORMATION.**

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

19               *“(3) PROTECTION OF VOLUNTARY SUBMISSION OF*  
 20               *INFORMATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision*  
 21               *of law, neither the Board, nor any agency receiving*  
 22               *information from the Board, shall disclose voluntarily*  
 23               *provided safety-related information if that informa-*  
 24               *tion is not related to the exercise of the Board’s acci-*  
 25               *dent or incident investigation authority under this*

1       chapter and if the Board finds that the disclosure of  
 2       the information would inhibit the voluntary provision  
 3       of that type of information.”.

4   **SEC. 5. TRAINING.**

5       Section 1115 of title 49, United States Code, is amend-  
 6   ed by adding at the end the following:

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

20   **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

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

23               (1) by striking “and”; and

24               (2) by inserting before the period at the end of  
 25   the first sentence the following: “, \$40,300,000 for fis-

1        *cal year 1997, \$42,400,000 for fiscal year 1998, and*  
2        *\$44,500,000 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 “Jan-*  
7        *uary 31”;*

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

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