

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4171

To amend title 49, United States Code, to prohibit the operation of certain aircraft not complying with stage 4 noise levels, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 3, 2015

Mr. CROWLEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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## A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, to prohibit the operation of certain aircraft not complying with stage 4 noise levels, 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 “Silent Skies Act of  
5 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) aircraft and airport noise is one of the most  
9 common “quality of life” nuisance issues in neigh-  
10 borhoods throughout the United States; and

1           (2) the chapter 14 aircraft noise certification  
2           standard (to be known as stage 5) became applicable  
3           to new type design aircraft in 2014 pursuant to an  
4           agreement signed by the International Civil Aviation  
5           Organization, of which the United States is a mem-  
6           ber.

7   **SEC. 3. AIRCRAFT NOISE REDUCTION TECHNOLOGY RE-**  
8                           **SEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND IMPLEMENTA-**  
9                           **TION PARTNERSHIP.**

10          (a) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—Subchapter I of  
11          chapter 475 of title 49, United States Code, is amended  
12          by adding at the end the following:

13   **“§47511. Aircraft noise reduction technology re-**  
14                           **search, development, and implementation**  
15                           **partnership**

16          “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Fed-  
17          eral Aviation Administration shall enter into a cooperative  
18          agreement, using a competitive process, with an institu-  
19          tion, entity, or consortium to carry out a program for the  
20          development, maturing, and certification of aircraft tech-  
21          nology that will assist in-service and in-production civil  
22          turbojets that have noise levels greater than the levels  
23          specified in stage 4 noise standards in complying with  
24          such noise standards, as required under subchapter II of  
25          this chapter, or more stringent noise standards.

1       “(b) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Administrator  
2 may include in a cooperative agreement entered into under  
3 this section terms and conditions requiring a recipient of  
4 funds under the cooperative agreement—

5               “(1) to conduct activities under the cooperative  
6 agreement on a cost-shared basis, using Federal and  
7 non-Federal funds; and

8               “(2) to make repayments to the United States  
9 of all or a portion of the amounts received by the  
10 recipient under the cooperative agreement, if an air-  
11 craft technology developed under the cooperative  
12 agreement results in revenues for the recipient.

13       “(c) FUNDING.—Of amounts appropriated under sec-  
14 tion 48102(a), not more than \$10,000,000 for each of fis-  
15 cal years 2017, 2018, and 2019 may be used to carry out  
16 this section.

17       “(d) REPORT.—Beginning in fiscal year 2017, the  
18 Administrator shall publish an annual report on the pro-  
19 gram established under this section until completion of the  
20 program.”.

21       (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for such  
22 subchapter is amended by adding at the end the following:

“47511. Aircraft noise reduction technology research, development, and imple-  
mentation partnership.”.

1 **SEC. 4. PROHIBITION ON OPERATING CERTAIN AIRCRAFT**  
2 **NOT COMPLYING WITH STAGE 4 NOISE LEV-**  
3 **ELS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 475 of  
5 title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the  
6 end the following:

7 **“§ 47535. Limitation on operating certain aircraft not**  
8 **complying with stage 4 noise levels**

9 “(a) REGULATIONS.—Not later than December 31,  
10 2016, the Secretary of Transportation, in consultation  
11 with the International Civil Aviation Organization, shall  
12 issue regulations to establish minimum standards for civil  
13 turbojets to comply with stage 4 noise levels.

14 “(b) GENERAL RULE.—The Secretary shall issue  
15 regulations to ensure that, except as provided in section  
16 47529—

17 “(1) 25 percent of the civil turbojets with a  
18 maximum weight of more than 75,000 pounds oper-  
19 ating after December 31, 2022, to or from airports  
20 in the United States comply with the stage 4 noise  
21 levels established under subsection (a);

22 “(2) 50 percent of such turbojets operating  
23 after December 31, 2027, to or from airports in the  
24 United States comply with the stage 4 noise levels;

25 “(3) 75 percent of such turbojets operating  
26 after December 31, 2032, to or from airports in the

1 United States comply with the stage 4 noise levels;  
2 and

3 “(4) 100 percent of such turbojets operating  
4 after December 31, 2037, to or from airports in the  
5 United States comply with the stage 4 noise levels.

6 “(c) FOREIGN-FLAG AIRCRAFT.—

7 “(1) INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS.—The Sec-  
8 retary shall request the International Civil Aviation  
9 Organization to add to its Work Programme the  
10 consideration of international standards for the  
11 phase-out of aircraft that do not comply with stage  
12 4 noise levels.

13 “(2) ENFORCEMENT.—The Secretary shall en-  
14 force the requirements of this section with respect to  
15 foreign-flag aircraft only to the extent that such en-  
16 forcement is consistent with United States obliga-  
17 tions under international agreements.

18 “(d) ANNUAL REPORT.—Beginning with calendar  
19 year 2020—

20 “(1) each air carrier shall submit to the Sec-  
21 retary an annual report on the progress the carrier  
22 is making toward complying with the requirements  
23 of this section and regulations issued to carry out  
24 this section; and

1           “(2) the Secretary shall submit to Congress an  
2           annual report on the progress being made toward  
3           that compliance.

4           “(e) RECERTIFICATION NOT REQUIRED.—

5           “(1) LIMITATION ON STATUTORY CONSTRU-  
6           TION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to  
7           require the recertification of a civil turbojet that has  
8           been retrofitted to comply with or otherwise already  
9           meets the stage 4 noise levels established under sub-  
10          section (a).

11          “(2) MEANS OF DEMONSTRATING COMPLIANCE  
12          WITH STAGE 4 NOISE LEVELS.—The Secretary shall  
13          specify means for demonstrating that an aircraft  
14          complies with stage 4 noise levels without requiring  
15          recertification.”.

16          (b) NONADDITION RULE.—

17                 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 47529 of such title  
18          is amended—

19                         (A) in subsection (a)—

20                                 (i) in the matter preceding paragraph

21   (1)—

22   (I) by striking “subsonic”; and

23   (II) by striking “November 4,  
24   1990” and inserting “December 31,  
25   2020”;

1 (ii) in paragraph (1) by striking  
2 “stage 3” and inserting “stage 4”; and

3 (iii) in paragraph (2) by striking “No-  
4 vember 5, 1990” and inserting “January  
5 1, 2021”;

6 (B) in subsection (b) by striking “stage 3”  
7 and inserting “stage 4”; and

8 (C) in subsection (e)(1) by striking “No-  
9 vember 5, 1990” and inserting “January 1,  
10 2021”.

11 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made  
12 by this subsection take effect on December 31,  
13 2020.

14 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

15 (1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 475 of such title is  
16 amended—

17 (A) in the chapter analysis—

18 (i) by striking the item relating to sec-  
19 tion 47530 and inserting the following:

“47530. Nonapplication of certain requirements to aircraft outside the 48 con-  
tiguous States.”;

20 and

21 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-  
22 lowing:

“47535. Limitation on operating certain aircraft not complying with stage 4  
noise levels.”;

23 (B) in section 47530—

1 (i) by striking the section designation  
2 and heading and inserting the following:

3 **“§ 47530. Nonapplication of certain requirements to**  
4 **aircraft outside the 48 contiguous States”;**

5 (ii) by striking “and 47529” and in-  
6 serting “, 47529, and 47535”;

7 (iii) by striking “subsonic”;

8 (iv) by striking “November 4, 1990”  
9 and inserting “December 31, 2020”; and

10 (v) by striking “stage 3” and insert-  
11 ing “stage 4”; and

12 (C) in section 47531 by striking “or  
13 47534” and inserting “47534, or 47535”.

14 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made  
15 by clauses (iii), (iv), and (v) of paragraph (1)(B)  
16 take effect on December 31, 2020.

17 **SEC. 5. STANDARDS FOR ISSUANCE OF TYPE CERTIFI-**  
18 **CATES.**

19 (a) APPLICABILITY OF STAGE 5 NOISE STANDARDS  
20 TO CIVIL TURBOJETS WITH A MAXIMUM WEIGHT OF  
21 MORE THAN 75,000 POUNDS.—On and after December  
22 31, 2017, the Secretary of Transportation may not issue  
23 a type certificate for a civil turbojet with a maximum  
24 weight of more than 75,000 pounds unless the person ap-



1 plying for the type certificate demonstrates that the civil  
2 turbojet complies with stage 5 noise levels.

3 (b) APPLICABILITY OF STAGE 5 NOISE STANDARDS  
4 TO ALL CIVIL TURBOJETS.—On and after December 31,  
5 2020, the Secretary may not issue a type certificate for  
6 any civil turbojet unless the person applying for the type  
7 certificate demonstrates that the civil turbojet complies  
8 with stage 5 noise levels.

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