

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3171

To direct the Attorney General to establish a program for the certification of Federal pilot officers, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 25, 2001

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

A BILL

To direct the Attorney General to establish a program for the certification of Federal pilot officers, 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 “Federal Pilot Officer
5 Act of 2001”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) On September 11, 2001, terrorists hijacked
9 4 civilian aircraft, crashing 2 of the aircraft into the
10 towers of the World Trade Center in New York,

1 New York, and a third aircraft into the Pentagon
2 outside of the District of Columbia.

3 (2) Thousands of innocent Americans and citi-
4 zens of other countries were killed or injured as a
5 result of these attacks, including the passengers and
6 crew of the 4 aircraft, workers in the World Trade
7 Center and in the Pentagon, rescue workers, and by-
8 standers.

9 (3) These attacks destroyed both towers of the
10 World Trade Center, as well as adjacent buildings,
11 and seriously damaged the Pentagon.

12 (4) These attacks were by far the deadliest ter-
13 rorist attacks ever launched against the United
14 States and, by targeting symbols of America, clearly
15 were intended to intimidate the Nation and weaken
16 its resolve.

17 (5) Armed pilots, copilots, and flight engineers
18 with proper training will be the last line of defense
19 against terrorists by providing cockpit security and
20 aircraft security.

21 (6) Secured doors separating the crew cabin
22 from the passenger cabin have been effective in de-
23 terring hijackings in other nations and will serve as
24 a deterrent to future contemplated acts of terrorism
25 in the United States.

1 **SEC. 3. AVIATION SAFETY; SUPPRESSION OF TERRORISM**
2 **ON COMMERCIAL AIRCRAFT.**

3 (a) POSSESSION OF FIREARMS ON COMMERCIAL
4 FLIGHTS.—No Federal department or agency may pro-
5 hibit a pilot, copilot, or flight engineer of a commercial
6 aircraft who has successfully completed the requirements
7 of subsection (b), or any qualified law enforcement per-
8 sonnel specifically detailed for the protection of a commer-
9 cial aircraft, who is not otherwise prohibited by law from
10 possessing a firearm, from possessing or carrying a fire-
11 arm for the protection of the aircraft.

12 (b) FEDERAL PILOT OFFICERS.—

13 (1) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Attor-
14 ney General shall establish a program to select, cer-
15 tify, train, and supervise qualified volunteer pilots,
16 copilots, and flight engineers who shall be deputized
17 as Federal pilot officers. Officers certified under the
18 program shall be responsible for defending the lives
19 of the individuals in the cockpit of a commercial air-
20 craft.

21 (2) TRAINING AND SUPERVISION; BACKGROUND
22 AND FITNESS EXAMINATIONS.—Under the program,
23 the Attorney General shall provide appropriate train-
24 ing and supervision of all Federal pilot officers, as
25 well as appropriate background and fitness examina-

1 tions of eligible candidates, as part of their certifi-
2 cation.

3 (3) LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY.—The author-
4 ity granted to a Federal pilot officer shall be limited
5 to enforcing Federal law in the cockpit of a commer-
6 cial aircraft, as necessary to defend the aircraft.

7 (4) REQUESTS FOR TRAINING.—The Attorney
8 General shall provide appropriate training to any
9 pilot, copilot, or flight engineer that requests train-
10 ing pursuant to this subsection.

11 (c) REGULATIONS.—The Attorney General may pre-
12 scribe regulations to carry out this section.

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