

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3921

To amend title 49, United States Code, to facilitate information sharing between helicopter operators and the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration regarding helicopter noise complaints, to establish additional requirements on individuals and entities that register a helicopter, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 7, 2023

Mr. PASCRELL (for himself, Mr. BEYER, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. NADLER, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. RASKIN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, to facilitate information sharing between helicopter operators and the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration regarding helicopter noise complaints, to establish additional requirements on individuals and entities that register a helicopter, 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 “Reduce Excessive Deci-
5 bels and Unwanted Commotion and Emissions to Height-

1 en Enforcement and Limitation of Intrusive Chopper Op-
 2 erations to Protect Towns and Enhance Residents from
 3 Noise Act of 2023” or the “REDUCE HELICOPTER
 4 Noise Act of 2023”.

5 **SEC. 2. HELICOPTER NOISE COMPLAINT ENFORCEMENT.**

6 Section 46301 of title 49, United States Code, is
 7 amended by striking “or section 47133” and inserting
 8 “section 47133, or section 47512”.

9 **SEC. 3. HELICOPTER NOISE COMPLAINT INFORMATION**
 10 **SHARING DATABASE.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 475 of
 12 title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
 13 end the following new section:

14 **“§ 47512. Helicopter noise complaint information**
 15 **sharing database**

16 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Fed-
 17 eral Aviation Administration shall establish and maintain
 18 a database for the Aircraft Noise Ombudsman to receive,
 19 collect, and provide access to information regarding heli-
 20 copter noise complaints in accordance with this section.

21 “(b) SUBMISSIONS.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Aircraft Noise Om-
 23 budsman shall establish a process to receive com-
 24 plaint information in accordance with paragraphs

1 (2) and (3) for the input of complaint information
2 as required by subsection (c).

3 “(2) REQUIRED SUBMISSIONS.—Such process
4 shall provide that, not later than 48 hours after an
5 owner or operator of a helicopter receives a com-
6 plaint from an individual, regardless of whether the
7 owner or operator who received such complaint is
8 the subject of that complaint, such owner or oper-
9 ator shall submit to the Aircraft Noise Ombudsman
10 such information provided in the complaint and any
11 other information as may be specified by the Air-
12 craft Noise Ombudsman, including—

13 “(A) whether such owner or operator is the
14 subject of the complaint; and

15 “(B) to the extent that the owner or oper-
16 ator is the subject of the complaint that is
17 being submitted, a description of any action
18 such owner or operator is taking or plans to
19 take to address the complaint.

20 “(3) PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS.—Such process shall
21 provide for a mechanism by which individuals may
22 directly submit a complaint pertaining to helicopter
23 noise to the Aircraft Noise Ombudsman.

24 “(c) INPUTS REQUIRED.—Not later than 48 hours
25 after receiving a submission described in paragraphs (2)

1 and (3) of subsection (b), the Aircraft Noise Ombudsman
2 shall—

3 “(1) determine which owner or operator is the
4 subject of the submission;

5 “(2) determine whether the complaint that is
6 the subject of such submission is meritorious; and

7 “(3) input, with respect to any claim deter-
8 mined to be meritorious under paragraph (2), infor-
9 mation pertaining to such submission into the data-
10 base established by subsection (a).

11 “(d) ACCESS.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the
13 Federal Aviation Administration shall provide access
14 to the database established by subsection (a) to own-
15 ers or operators of helicopters to view submissions of
16 complaints pertaining to such owners or operators.

17 “(2) PRIVACY AND INDICATIONS OF ACTIONS
18 BEING TAKEN.—Access pursuant to paragraph (1)
19 may be extended only to the extent necessary for an
20 owner or operator to—

21 “(A) view information included in submis-
22 sions pertaining to such owner or operator; and

23 “(B) pursuant to subsection (e)(2), add in-
24 formation relating to actions that may be taken

1 or intended to be taken to address such com-
2 plaints.

3 “(e) NOTIFICATION.—

4 “(1) NOTIFICATION BY AIRCRAFT NOISE OM-
5 BUDSMAN.—In the case the Aircraft Noise Ombuds-
6 man inputs a complaint into the database that was
7 not submitted by an owner or operator of a heli-
8 copter that is the subject of the complaint, not later
9 than 48 hours after such complaint is so inputted,
10 the Aircraft Noise Ombudsman shall notify such
11 owner or operator that the complaint has been input
12 into the database.

13 “(2) RESPONSE BY OWNER OR OPERATOR.—

14 Not later than 48 hours of being notified of a com-
15 plaint pursuant to paragraph (1), that is a meri-
16 torious complaint, as determined by the Aircraft
17 Noise Ombudsman, an owner or operator of a heli-
18 copter shall input into the database an indication as
19 to whether such owner or operator is taking an ac-
20 tion to address such complaint.

21 “(f) EXCEPTION.—Subsections (b)(2), (d), and (e)
22 shall not apply with respect to complaints relating to heli-
23 copters owned or operated by a military department (as
24 defined in section 102 of title 5) or the Coast Guard.

1 “(g) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date
2 of enactment of this section, the Administrator of the Fed-
3 eral Aviation Administration shall submit to the Com-
4 mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure for the
5 House of Representatives and the Committee on Com-
6 merce, Science, and Transportation for the Senate a re-
7 port that includes the following:

8 “(1) The number of complaints received by the
9 Aircraft Noise Ombudsman that were then directed
10 to the owner or operator of a helicopter who was the
11 subject of such complaint.

12 “(2) The number of complaints received by the
13 Aircraft Noise Ombudsman in which the appropriate
14 owner or operator of a helicopter could not be identi-
15 fied.

16 “(3) The number of complaints received by the
17 Aircraft Noise Ombudsman that were reported by—

18 “(A) an owner or operator of a helicopter;

19 and

20 “(B) an individual.

21 “(4) The number of instances an owner or op-
22 erator of a helicopter indicated such owner or oper-
23 ated took an action to address a complaint.”.

1 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis of sub-
 2 chapter I of chapter 475 of title 49, United States Code,
 3 is amended by adding at the end the following:

“47512. Helicopter noise complaint information sharing database.”.

4 **SEC. 4. HELICOPTER REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS.**

5 Section 44102 of title 49, United States Code, is
 6 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-
 7 section—

8 “(c) SUBMISSION AND VERIFICATION OF INFORMA-
 9 TION.—

10 “(1) INDIVIDUALS.—Any individual who has
 11 registered a helicopter under subsection (a), and any
 12 individual who has an ownership interest of at least
 13 10 percent in a helicopter registered under such sub-
 14 section, shall submit to the Administrator the name,
 15 address, date of birth, driver’s license or pilot’s li-
 16 cense, or both, of such individual, and any informa-
 17 tion necessary as determined by the Administrator.

18 “(2) ENTITIES.—Any entity that has registered
 19 a helicopter under subsection (a), and any entity
 20 that has an ownership interest of at least 10 percent
 21 in a helicopter registered under such subsection,
 22 shall submit to the Administrator the name, physical
 23 address, principal place of business, and taxpayer
 24 identification number of such entity, and any infor-

1 mation necessary as determined by the Adminis-
2 trator.

3 “(3) VERIFICATION.—The Administrator shall
4 verify the information submitted and eligibility of
5 entities registered under this subsection through an
6 independent review.”.

7 **SEC. 5. DEALERS’ CERTIFICATES OF REGISTRATION.**

8 Section 44104 of title 49, United States Code, is
9 amended—

10 (1) by striking “The Administrator” and insert-
11 ing the following:

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator”;

13 (2) in paragraph (1) by striking “and” at the
14 end;

15 (3) in paragraph (2) by striking the period and
16 inserting “; and”; and

17 (4) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(3) in the public interest for verifying any in-
19 formation dealers submit for the issuance of a deal-
20 er’s certificate.

21 “(b) INFORMATION FOR THE ISSUANCE OF DEALERS’
22 CERTIFICATES.—For any regulations prescribed under
23 subsection (a)(2) for the issuance of a dealer’s certificate
24 of registration, the Administrator shall additionally re-

- 1 quire the dealer to furnish such information as may be
- 2 required by the Administrator.”.

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