

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4320

To provide for the establishment of the Bessie Coleman Women in Aviation
Advisory Committee.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 9, 2024

Mr. PETERS introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred
to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of the Bessie Coleman
Women in Aviation Advisory Committee.

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. BESSIE COLEMAN WOMEN IN AVIATION ADVI-**
4 **SORY COMMITTEE.**

5 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 6 months after
6 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall es-
7 tablish the Bessie Coleman Women in Aviation Advisory
8 Committee (in this section referred to as the “Com-
9 mittee”).

1 (b) PURPOSE.—The Committee shall advise the Sec-
2 retary and the Administrator on matters and policies re-
3 lated to promoting the recruitment, retention, employ-
4 ment, education, training, career advancement, and well-
5 being of women in the aviation industry and aviation-fo-
6 cused Federal civil service positions.

7 (c) FORM OF DIRECTIVES.—All activities carried out
8 by the Committee, including special committees, shall be
9 in response to written terms of work from the Secretary
10 or taskings approved by a majority of the voting members
11 of the Committee and may not duplicate the objectives of
12 the Air Carrier Training Aviation Rulemaking Committee.

13 (d) FUNCTIONS.—In carrying out the directives de-
14 scribed in subsection (c), the functions of the Committee
15 are as follows:

16 (1) Foster industry collaboration in an open
17 and transparent manner by engaging, as prescribed
18 by this section, with representatives of the private
19 sector associated with an entity described in sub-
20 section (e)(1)(B).

21 (2) Make recommendations for strategic objec-
22 tives, priorities, and policies that would improve the
23 recruitment, retention, training, and career advance-
24 ment of women in aviation professions.

1 (3) Evaluate opportunities for the FAA to im-
2 prove the recruitment and retention of women in the
3 FAA.

4 (4) Periodically review and update the rec-
5 ommendations directed to the FAA and non-FAA
6 entities produced by the Advisory Board created
7 pursuant to section 612 of the FAA Reauthorization
8 Act of 2018 (49 U.S.C. 40101 note) to improve the
9 implementation of such recommendations.

10 (5) Coordinate with the Office of Civil Rights of
11 the Department of Transportation and the Federal
12 Women’s Program of the FAA to ensure directives
13 described in subsection (c) do not duplicate objec-
14 tives of such office or program.

15 (e) MEMBERSHIP.—

16 (1) VOTING MEMBERS.—The Committee shall
17 be composed of the following members:

18 (A) The Administrator, or the designee of
19 the Administrator.

20 (B) At least 25 individuals, appointed by
21 the Secretary, representing the following:

22 (i) Aircraft manufacturers and aero-
23 space companies.

1 (ii) Public and private aviation labor
2 organizations, including collective bar-
3 gaining representatives of—

4 (I) aviation safety inspectors and
5 safety engineers of the FAA;

6 (II) air traffic controllers;

7 (III) certified aircraft mainte-
8 nance technicians; and

9 (IV) commercial airline crew-
10 members.

11 (iii) General aviation operators.

12 (iv) Air carriers.

13 (v) Business aviation operators, in-
14 cluding powered-lift operators.

15 (vi) Unmanned aircraft systems oper-
16 ators.

17 (vii) Aviation safety management ex-
18 perts.

19 (viii) Aviation maintenance, repair,
20 and overhaul entities.

21 (ix) Airport owners, operators, and
22 employees.

23 (x) Institutions of higher education
24 (as defined in section 101 of the Higher
25 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)),

1 a postsecondary vocational institution (as
 2 defined in section 102(c) of the Higher
 3 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1002)),
 4 or a high school or secondary school (as
 5 such terms are defined in section 8101 of
 6 the Elementary and Secondary Education
 7 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801)).

8 (xi) A flight school that provides flight
 9 training, as defined in part 61 of title 14,
 10 Code of Federal Regulations, or that holds
 11 a pilot school certificate under part 141 of
 12 title 14, Code of Federal Regulations.

13 (xii) Aviation maintenance technician
 14 schools governed under part 147 of title
 15 14, Code of Federal Regulations.

16 (xiii) Engineering business associa-
 17 tions.

18 (xiv) Civil Air Patrol.

19 (xv) Nonprofit organizations within
 20 the aviation industry.

21 (2) NONVOTING MEMBERS.—

22 (A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to the
 23 members appointed under paragraph (1), the
 24 Committee shall be composed of not more than
 25 5 nonvoting members appointed by the Sec-

1 retary from among officers or employees of the
2 FAA, at least 1 of which shall be an employee
3 of the Office of Civil Rights of the FAA.

4 (B) ADDITIONAL NONVOTING MEMBERS.—

5 The Secretary may invite representatives from
6 the Department of Education and Department
7 of Labor to serve as nonvoting members on the
8 Committee.

9 (C) DUTIES.—The nonvoting members
10 may—

11 (i) take part in deliberations of the
12 Committee; and

13 (ii) provide subject matter expertise
14 with respect to reports and recommenda-
15 tions of the Committee.

16 (D) LIMITATION.—The nonvoting members
17 may not represent any stakeholder interest
18 other than that of the respective Federal agency
19 of the member.

20 (3) TERMS.—Each voting member and non-
21 voting member of the Committee appointed by the
22 Secretary shall be appointed for a term that expires
23 not later than the date on which the authorization
24 of the Committee expires under subsection (l).

1 (4) COMMITTEE CHARACTERISTICS.—The Com-
2 mittee shall have the following characteristics:

3 (A) The ability to obtain necessary infor-
4 mation from additional experts in the aviation
5 and aerospace communities.

6 (B) A membership that enables the Com-
7 mittee to have substantive discussions and
8 reach consensus on issues in a timely manner.

9 (C) Appropriate expertise, including exper-
10 tise in human resources, human capital man-
11 agement, policy, labor relations, employment
12 training, workforce development, and youth out-
13 reach.

14 (5) DATE.—Not later than 9 months after the
15 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall
16 make the appointments described in this subsection.

17 (f) CHAIRPERSON.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall select a
19 chairperson from among the voting members of the
20 Committee.

21 (2) TERM.—The Chairperson shall serve a 2-
22 year term.

23 (g) MEETINGS.—

1 (1) FREQUENCY.—The Committee shall meet at
2 least twice each year at the call of the Chairperson
3 or the Secretary.

4 (2) PUBLIC ATTENDANCE.—The meetings of
5 the Committee shall be open and accessible to the
6 public.

7 (3) ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT.—The Secretary
8 shall furnish the Committee with logistical and ad-
9 ministrative support to enable the Committee to per-
10 form the duties of the Committee.

11 (h) SPECIAL COMMITTEES.—

12 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Committee may es-
13 tablish special committees composed of industry rep-
14 resentatives, members of the public, labor represent-
15 atives, and other relevant parties in complying with
16 the consultation and participation requirements
17 under subsection (d).

18 (2) APPLICABLE LAW.—Chapter 10 of title 5,
19 United States Code, shall not apply to a special com-
20 mittee established by the Committee.

21 (i) PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

22 (1) NO COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—

23 (A) NON-FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—A mem-
24 ber of the Committee who is not an officer or

1 employee of the Government shall serve without
2 compensation.

3 (B) FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.—A member of
4 the Committee who is an officer or employee of
5 the Federal Government shall serve without
6 compensation in addition to the compensation
7 received for the services of the member as an
8 officer or employee of the Federal Government.

9 (2) DEATH OR RESIGNATION.—If a member of
10 the Committee dies or resigns during the term of
11 service of such member, the Secretary shall des-
12 ignate a successor for the unexpired term of such
13 member.

14 (j) REPORTS.—

15 (1) TASK REPORTS.—The Committee shall sub-
16 mit to the Secretary and the appropriate committees
17 of Congress annual reports detailing the completion
18 of each directive summarizing the—

19 (A) findings and associated recommenda-
20 tions of the Committee for any legislative and
21 administrative actions the Committee considers
22 appropriate to improve the advancement of
23 women in aviation; and

24 (B) planned activities of the Committee, as
25 directed by the Secretary or approved by a ma-

1 jority of voting members of the Committee, and
 2 proposed terms of work to fulfill each activity.

3 (2) ADDITIONAL REPORTS.—The Committee
 4 may submit to the appropriate committees of Con-
 5 gress, the Secretary, and the Administrator addi-
 6 tional reports and recommendations related to edu-
 7 cation, training, recruitment, retention, and ad-
 8 vancement of women in the aviation industry as the
 9 Committee determines appropriate.

10 (k) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

11 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
 12 trator” means the Administrator of the FAA.

13 (2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
 14 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
 15 gress” means the Committee on Commerce, Science,
 16 and Transportation of the Senate and the Com-
 17 mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the
 18 House of Representatives.

19 (3) FAA.—The term “FAA” means the Fed-
 20 eral Aviation Administration.

21 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
 22 the Secretary of Transportation.

23 (l) SUNSET.—The authorization of the Committee
 24 shall expire on October 1, 2028.

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