

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2182

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish an apprenticeship program for students at flight training providers, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 18, 2025

Mr. DONALDS (for himself, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, and Mr. NEHLS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish an apprenticeship program for students at flight training providers, 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 “Pre-Pilot Pathway
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM FOR PILOTS.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) APPRENTICE.—The term “apprentice”
2 means a student enrolled at a flight training pro-
3 vider.

4 (2) FLIGHT TRAINING PROVIDER.—The term
5 “flight training provider” means a flight academy
6 certified under part 141 of title 14, Code of Federal
7 Regulations.

8 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
9 the Secretary of Transportation.

10 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, in consulta-
11 tion with appropriate industry stakeholders and flight
12 training providers who conduct flight training under part
13 141 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, shall estab-
14 lish an apprenticeship program to establish a pipeline of
15 qualified and interested individuals to become commercial
16 pilots.

17 (c) SELECTION.—Under the apprenticeship program
18 established under subsection (b), each flight training pro-
19 vider participating in the apprenticeship program estab-
20 lished under subsection (b) may select up to 8 applicants,
21 or more if considered appropriate by the Secretary based
22 upon the size and type of each participating flight training
23 provider, to serve as apprentices each academic year.

24 (d) CURRICULUM AND REQUIREMENTS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—To graduate from an ap-
2 prenticeship program established under subsection
3 (b), an apprentice shall satisfy any relevant require-
4 ments and minimum curriculum under part 141 of
5 title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor
6 regulations), including all curriculum under subpart
7 C of such part.

8 (2) MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.—Nothing in this
9 Act prevents a flight training provider from impos-
10 ing additional requirements, such as modifying the
11 terms of service of the apprenticeship program, on
12 an apprentice taking part in an apprenticeship pro-
13 gram established pursuant to this section.

14 (e) OPTIONAL PROGRAM.—A flight training provider
15 may choose not to participate in an apprenticeship pro-
16 gram established under this section.

17 (f) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the
18 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue
19 such regulations as are necessary to implement this Act.

20 (g) INCENTIVIZING RETIRED PILOTS.—The Sec-
21 retary shall take such actions as may be appropriate to
22 develop methods to incentivize pilots, including retired
23 military pilots, retiring airline pilots, and graduates of the
24 apprenticeship programs established under this section, to
25 become instructors, mentors, or program advisors at par-

1 participating flight training providers, including through the
2 development of pathway programs for such pilots to gain
3 initial qualifications or concurrent qualifications as cer-
4 tified flight instructors under part 61 or part 141 of title
5 14, Code of Federal Regulations.

6 (h) REPORTING AND EVALUATION.—

7 (1) REPORTING.—The Secretary shall submit to
8 Congress an annual report detailing apprentice
9 progress, retention rates, and post-graduation em-
10 ployment outcomes under the program under this
11 section.

12 (2) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall conduct
13 an annual review of the apprenticeship program’s ef-
14 fectiveness, including the impact on addressing pilot
15 shortages.

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