

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1576

To establish a commission to study the impact of deregulation of the airline industry on small town America.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 10, 1999

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

A BILL

To establish a commission to study the impact of deregulation of the airline industry on small town America.

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. AIRLINE DEREGULATION STUDY COMMISSION.**

4 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMISSION.—

5 (1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a
6 commission to be known as the Airline Deregulation
7 Study Commission (in this section referred to as the
8 “Commission”).

9 (2) MEMBERSHIP.—

1 (A) COMPOSITION.—Subject to subpara-
2 graph (B), the Commission shall be composed
3 of 15 members of whom—

4 (i) 5 shall be appointed by the Presi-
5 dent;

6 (ii) 5 shall be appointed by the Presi-
7 dent pro tempore of the Senate, upon the
8 recommendation of the Majority and Mi-
9 nority leaders of the Senate; and

10 (iii) 5 shall be appointed by the
11 Speaker of the House of Representatives,
12 in consultation with the Minority leader of
13 the House of Representatives.

14 (B) MEMBERS FROM RURAL AREAS.—

15 (i) REQUIREMENT.—Of the individ-
16 uals appointed to the Commission under
17 subparagraph (A)—

18 (I) one of the individuals ap-
19 pointed under clause (i) of that sub-
20 paragraph shall be an individual who
21 resides in a rural area; and

22 (II) two of the individuals ap-
23 pointed under each of clauses (ii) and
24 (iii) of that subparagraph shall be in-
25 dividuals who reside in a rural area.

1 (ii) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—

2 The appointment of individuals under sub-
3 paragraph (A) pursuant to the requirement
4 in clause (i) of this subparagraph shall, to
5 the maximum extent practicable, be made
6 so as to ensure that a variety of geographic
7 areas of the country are represented in the
8 membership of the Commission.

9 (C) DATE.—The appointments of the
10 members of the Commission shall be made not
11 later than 60 days after the date of the enact-
12 ment of this Act.

13 (3) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—
14 Members shall be appointed for the life of the Com-
15 mission. Any vacancy in the Commission shall not
16 affect its powers, but shall be filled in the same
17 manner as the original appointment.

18 (4) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30 days
19 after the date on which all members of the Commis-
20 sion have been appointed, the Commission shall hold
21 its first meeting.

22 (5) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at
23 the call of the Chairperson.

1 (6) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of
2 the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a
3 lesser number of members may hold hearings.

4 (7) CHAIRPERSON.—The Commission shall se-
5 lect a Chairman and Vice Chairperson from among
6 its members.

7 (b) DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.—

8 (1) STUDY.—

9 (A) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection, the
10 terms “air carrier” and “air transportation”
11 have the meanings given those terms in section
12 40102(a) of title 49, United States Code.

13 (B) CONTENTS.—The Commission shall
14 conduct a thorough study of the impacts of de-
15 regulation of the airline industry of the United
16 States on—

17 (i) the affordability, accessibility,
18 availability, and quality of air transpor-
19 tation, particularly in small-sized and me-
20 dium-sized communities;

21 (ii) economic development and job cre-
22 ation, particularly in areas that are under-
23 served by air carriers;

24 (iii) the economic viability of small-
25 sized airports; and

1 (iv) the long-term configuration of the
2 United States passenger air transportation
3 system.

4 (C) MEASUREMENT FACTORS.—In car-
5 rying out the study under this subsection, the
6 Commission shall develop measurement factors
7 to analyze the quality of passenger air transpor-
8 tation service provided by air carriers by identi-
9 fying the factors that are generally associated
10 with quality passenger air transportation serv-
11 ice.

12 (D) BUSINESS AND LEISURE TRAVEL.—In
13 conducting measurements for an analysis of the
14 affordability of air travel, to the extent prac-
15 ticable, the Commission shall provide for appro-
16 priate control groups and comparisons with re-
17 spect to business and leisure travel.

18 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the
19 date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission
20 shall submit an interim report to the President and
21 Congress, and not later than 18 months after the
22 date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission
23 shall submit a report to the President and the Con-
24 gress. Each such report shall contain a detailed
25 statement of the findings and conclusions of the

1 Commission, together with its recommendations for
2 such legislation and administrative actions as it con-
3 siders appropriate.

4 (c) POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.—

5 (1) HEARINGS.—The Commission may hold
6 such hearings, sit and act at such times and places,
7 take such testimony, and receive such evidence as
8 the Commission considers advisable to carry out the
9 duties of the Commission under this section.

10 (2) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

11 The Commission may secure directly from any Fed-
12 eral department or agency such information as the
13 Commission considers necessary to carry out the du-
14 ties of the Commission under this section. Upon re-
15 quest of the Chairperson of the Commission, the
16 head of such department or agency shall furnish
17 such information to the Commission.

18 (3) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Commission may
19 use the United States mails in the same manner and
20 under the same conditions as other departments and
21 agencies of the Federal Government.

22 (4) GIFTS.—The Commission may accept, use,
23 and dispose of gifts or donations of services or prop-
24 erty.

25 (d) COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.—

1 (1) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the
2 Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, includ-
3 ing per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates author-
4 ized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of
5 chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while
6 away from their homes or regular places of business
7 in the performance of services for the Commission.

8 (2) STAFF.—

9 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Chairperson of the
10 Commission may, without regard to the civil
11 service laws and regulations, appoint and termi-
12 nate an executive director and such other addi-
13 tional personnel as may be necessary to enable
14 the Commission to perform its duties. The em-
15 ployment of an executive director shall be sub-
16 ject to confirmation by the Commission.

17 (B) COMPENSATION.—The Chairperson of
18 the Commission may fix the compensation of
19 the executive director and other personnel with-
20 out regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and
21 subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United
22 States Code, relating to classification of posi-
23 tions and General Schedule pay rates, except
24 that the rate of pay for the executive director
25 and other personnel may not exceed the rate

1 payable for level V of the Executive Schedule
2 under section 5316 of such title.

3 (3) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—

4 Any Federal Government employee may be detailed
5 to the Commission without reimbursement, and such
6 detail shall be without interruption or loss of civil
7 service status or privilege.

8 (4) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTER-

9 MITTENT SERVICES.—The Chairperson of the Com-
10 mission may procure temporary and intermittent
11 services under section 3109(b) of title 5, United
12 States Code, at rates for individuals which do not
13 exceed the daily equivalent of the annual rate of
14 basic pay prescribed for level V of the Executive
15 Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

16 (e) TERMINATION OF COMMISSION.—The Commis-

17 sion shall terminate 90 days after the date on which the
18 Commission submits its report under subsection (b).

19 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
21 appropriated \$1,500,000 for fiscal year 2000 to the
22 Commission to carry out this section.

1 (2) AVAILABILITY.—Any sums appropriated
2 pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in
3 paragraph (1) shall remain available until expended.

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