

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1889

To amend title 49, United States Code, to improve the training requirements for and require the certification of cabin crew members, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 30, 2003

Mrs. LOWEY (for herself, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CASE, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. FORD, Mr. FROST, Mr. HOLDEN, Mrs. KELLY, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. KLECZKA, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. WEINER, Mr. GORDON, Mr. COSTELLO, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HONDA, Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. THOMPSON of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, to improve the training requirements for and require the certification of cabin crew members, 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 “Flight Attendant Cer-
5 tification Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The Federal Aviation Administration re-
4 quires cabin crew on board all transport category
5 aircraft (20 seats or more) to handle aircraft evacu-
6 ations and other emergency procedures.

7 (2) Cabin crew are in-flight first responders
8 trained to handle medical emergencies, fires, and se-
9 curity threats.

10 (3) As safety-sensitive employees, cabin crew
11 are tested for drug and alcohol use.

12 (4) Federal regulations limit cabin crew duty
13 time and stipulate mandatory rest periods.

14 (5) A wide disparity in quality and content of
15 training exists from air carrier to air carrier.

16 (6) The Federal Aviation Administration cer-
17 tifies other groups with safety responsibilities under
18 its jurisdiction, including pilots, mechanics, repair-
19 men, dispatchers, and parachute packers.

20 (7) Certification of cabin crew will make the
21 Federal Aviation Administration responsible for en-
22 suring that cabin crew are qualified to perform their
23 safety and security duties.

1 **SEC. 3. TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR CABIN CREW.**

2 Section 44935 of chapter 449 of part A of subtitle
3 VII of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding
4 at the end the following:

5 “(g) TRAINING STANDARDS FOR CABIN CREW.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall
7 prescribe standards for cabin crew training and cer-
8 tification. The standards shall include the following:

9 “(A) MANDATORY CERTIFICATION.—All
10 new and existing cabin crew members shall be
11 certified by the Administrator after successful
12 completion of an air carrier’s training program,
13 which consists of—

14 “(i) initial, indoctrination, and emer-
15 gency training;

16 “(ii) air carrier specific training re-
17 lated to aircraft types and operator’s cer-
18 tificate; and

19 “(iii) submission by the air carrier to
20 the Administrator confirming such comple-
21 tion.

22 “(B) STANDARDIZED TRAINING.—The Ad-
23 ministrator shall be prohibited from granting
24 an air carrier a waiver of cabin crew training
25 requirements or an exemption from any part of
26 such requirements.

1 “(C) QUALIFICATIONS.—

2 “(i) IN GENERAL.—To be qualified to
3 receive a cabin crew certificate, a cabin
4 crew member shall—

5 “(I) successfully complete the
6 training requirements established by
7 the Administrator, including all ini-
8 tial, indoctrination, emergency, transi-
9 tion, differences, recurrent, and re-
10 qualification training as described in
11 the applicable regulations;

12 “(II) successfully complete the
13 cabin security and self-defense train-
14 ing requirements established by the
15 Transportation Security Adminis-
16 trator; and

17 “(III) successfully perform the
18 assigned duties of a cabin crew mem-
19 ber and complete the approved pro-
20 ficiency check, under the supervision
21 of a certified instructor or supervisor,
22 for not less than 5 hours of initial op-
23 erating experience.

1 “(ii) INITIAL OPERATING EXPERI-
2 ENCE.—Initial operating experience shall
3 be conducted:

4 “(I) on an operating flight;

5 “(II) without decreasing the
6 number of required cabin crew com-
7 plement on an aircraft; and

8 “(III) by assigning not more
9 than 2 qualifying cabin crew on a nar-
10 row-body aircraft or not more than 4
11 qualifying cabin crew on a wide-body
12 aircraft.

13 No deviations, exemptions, and waivers
14 from these requirements shall be per-
15 mitted.

16 “(D) CONTENTS.—The cabin crew certifi-
17 cate shall—

18 “(i) be numbered and recorded by the
19 Administrator of the Federal Aviation Ad-
20 ministration;

21 “(ii) contain the name, address, and
22 description of the individual to whom the
23 certificate is issued;

1 “(iii) contain the name of the current
2 air carrier employer of the certificate hold-
3 er;

4 “(iv) contain terms the Administrator
5 determines are necessary to ensure safety
6 in air commerce, including terms that the
7 certificate shall remain valid unless the Ad-
8 ministrators suspends or revokes the certifi-
9 cate; and

10 “(v) designate the type and model of
11 aircraft on which the certificate holder
12 cabin crew member has successfully com-
13 pleted all Federal Aviation Administration
14 and Transportation Security Administra-
15 tion required training in order to be as-
16 signed duties on board such type and
17 model of aircraft.

18 “(E) CARRIER TRAINING APPROVAL.—Air
19 carrier training programs shall require approval
20 by the Administrator. To assure consistent
21 training and competency, only a FAA head-
22 quarters staff position shall be authorized to
23 approved training programs. Principal oper-
24 ations inspectors or other personnel with re-
25 sponsibilities for a particular air carrier or car-

1 riers shall not be permitted to issue such ap-
2 proval or permitted to grant exemptions, devi-
3 ations, or waivers from any approved training
4 requirements used to evaluate air carrier train-
5 ing programs or to determine whether such pro-
6 grams shall be approved.

7 “(2) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this sub-
8 section, the term ‘cabin crew’ means individuals
9 working in an aircraft cabin on board a transport
10 category aircraft with 20 or more seats.”.

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