- (1) the disclosure of the information would inhibit the voluntary provision of that type of information and that the receipt of that type of information aids in fulfilling the Administrator's safety and security responsibilities; and
- (2) withholding such information from disclosure would be consistent with the Administrator's safety and security responsibilities.
- (b) REGULATIONS.—The Administrator shall issue regulations to carry out this section.

(Added Pub. L. 104–264, title IV, §402(a), Oct. 9, 1996, 110 Stat. 3255.)

### Effective Date

Except as otherwise specifically provided, section applicable only to fiscal years beginning after Sept. 30, 1996, and not to be construed as affecting funds made available for a fiscal year ending before Oct. 1, 1996, see section 3 of Pub. L. 104-264, set out as an Effective Date of 1996 Amendment note under section 106 of this title.

IMPROVED VOLUNTARY DISCLOSURE REPORTING SYSTEM Pub. L. 112-95, title III, §344, Feb. 14, 2012, 126 Stat. 81,

provided that:

"(a) VOLUNTARY DISCLOSURE REPORTING PROGRAM DE-FINED.—In this section, the term 'Voluntary Disclosure Reporting Program' means the program established by the Federal Aviation Administration through Advisory Circular 00–58A, dated September 8, 2006, including any subsequent revisions thereto.

"(b) VERIFICATION.—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall modify the Voluntary Disclosure Reporting Program to require inspectors

to—

- "(1) verify that air carriers are implementing comprehensive solutions to correct the underlying causes of the violations voluntarily disclosed by such air carriers; and
- "(2) confirm, before approving a final report of a violation, that a violation with the same root causes, has not been previously discovered by an inspector or self-disclosed by the air carrier.
- self-disclosed by the air carrier.

  "(c) SUPERVISORY REVIEW OF VOLUNTARY SELF-DISCLOSURES.—The Administrator shall establish a process
  by which voluntary self-disclosures received from air
  carriers are reviewed and approved by a supervisor
  after the initial review by an inspector.

"(d) INSPECTOR GENERAL STUDY.—

- "(1) IN GENERAL.—The Inspector General of the Department of Transportation shall conduct a study of the Voluntary Disclosure Reporting Program.
- "(2) REVIEW.—In conducting the study, the Inspector General shall examine, at a minimum, if the Administration—
  - "(A) conducts comprehensive reviews of voluntary disclosure reports before closing a voluntary disclosure report under the provisions of the program;
  - "(B) evaluates the effectiveness of corrective actions taken by air carriers; and
  - "(C) effectively prevents abuse of the voluntary disclosure reporting program through its secondary review of self-disclosures before they are accepted and closed by the Administration.
- "(3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act [Feb. 14, 2012], the Inspector General shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the results of the study conducted under this section."

# § 40124. Interstate agreements for airport facili-

Congress consents to a State making an agreement, not in conflict with a law of the United

States, with another State to develop or operate an airport facility.

(Added Pub. L. 104–287, \$5(69)(A), Oct. 11, 1996, 110 Stat. 3395, \$40121; renumbered \$40124, Pub. L. 105–102, \$3(d)(1)(B), Nov. 20, 1997, 111 Stat. 2215.)

# HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

This restates 49:44502(e) as 49:40121 [now 40124] to provide a more appropriate place in title 49.

#### AMENDMENTS

 $1997—Pub.\ L.\ 105–102$  amended Pub. L. 104–287, renumbering section 40121 of this title as this section.

# Effective Date of 1997 Amendment

Pub. L. 105-102, 3(d), Nov. 20, 1997, 111 Stat. 2215, provided that the amendment made by section 3(d)(1)(B) is effective Oct. 11, 1996.

Amendment by Pub. L. 105–102 effective as if included in the provisions of the Act to which the amendment relates, see section 3(f) of Pub. L. 105–102, set out as a note under section 106 of this title.

# § 40125. Qualifications for public aircraft status

- (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:
- (1) COMMERCIAL PURPOSES.—The term "commercial purposes" means the transportation of persons or property for compensation or hire, but does not include the operation of an aircraft by the armed forces for reimbursement when that reimbursement is required by any Federal statute, regulation, or directive, in effect on November 1, 1999, or by one government on behalf of another government under a cost reimbursement agreement if the government on whose behalf the operation is conducted certifies to the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration that the operation is necessary to respond to a significant and imminent threat to life or property (including natural resources) and that no service by a private operator is reasonably available to meet the threat.
- (2) GOVERNMENTAL FUNCTION.—The term "governmental function" means an activity undertaken by a government, such as national defense, intelligence missions, firefighting, search and rescue, law enforcement (including transport of prisoners, detainees, and illegal aliens), aeronautical research, or biological or geological resource management.
- (3) QUALIFIED NON-CREWMEMBER.—The term "qualified non-crewmember" means an individual, other than a member of the crew, aboard an aircraft—
  - (A) operated by the armed forces or an intelligence agency of the United States Government: or
  - (B) whose presence is required to perform, or is associated with the performance of, a governmental function.
- (4) ARMED FORCES.—The term "armed forces" has the meaning given such term by section 101 of title 10.
- (b) AIRCRAFT OWNED BY GOVERNMENTS.—An aircraft described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D) of section 40102(a)(41) does not qualify as a public aircraft under such section when the aircraft is used for commercial purposes or to carry an individual other than a crewmember or a qualified non-crewmember.