

“(1) human performance in the air transportation environment, including among air transportation personnel such as air traffic controllers, pilots, and technicians; and

“(2) any other aviation human resource issue pertinent to developing and maintaining a safe and efficient air transportation system.

“(b) ACTIVITIES.—Activities conducted under this section may include the following:

“(1) Research, development, and evaluation of training programs for air traffic controllers, aviation safety inspectors, airway transportation safety specialists, and engineers.

“(2) Research and development of best practices for recruitment of individuals into the aviation field for mission critical positions.

“(3) Research, in consultation with other relevant Federal agencies, to develop a baseline of general aviation employment statistics and an analysis of future needs in the aviation field.

“(4) Research and the development of a comprehensive assessment of the airframe and power plant technician certification process and its effect on employment trends.

“(5) Evaluation of aviation maintenance technician school environments.

“(6) Research and an assessment of the ability to develop training programs to allow for the transition of recently unemployed and highly skilled mechanics into the aviation field.”

§ 44514. Flight service stations

(a) HOURS OF OPERATION.—(1) The Secretary of Transportation may close, or reduce the hours of operation of, a flight service station in an area only if the service provided in the area after the closing or during the hours the station is not in operation is provided by an automated flight service station with at least model 1 equipment.

(2) The Secretary shall reopen a flight service station closed after March 24, 1987, but before July 15, 1987, as soon as practicable if the service in the area in which the station is located has not been provided since the closing by an automatic flight service station with at least model 1 equipment. The hours of operation for the reopened station shall be the same as were the hours of operation for the station on March 25, 1987. After reopening the station, the Secretary may close, or reduce the hours of operation of, the station only as provided in paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(b) MANNED AUXILIARY STATIONS.—The Secretary and the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall establish a system of manned auxiliary flight service stations. The manned auxiliary flight service stations shall supplement the services of the planned consolidation to 61 automated flight service stations under the flight service station modernization program. A manned auxiliary flight service station shall be located in an area of unique weather or operational conditions that are critical to the safety of flight.

(Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1183.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 3 columns: Revised Section, Source (U.S. Code), Source (Statutes at Large). Row 1: 44514(a) 49 App.:2224. Sept. 3, 1982, Pub. L. 97-248, §528, 96 Stat. 699; restated Dec. 30, 1987, Pub. L. 100-223, §113, 101 Stat. 1505.

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES—CONTINUED

Table with 3 columns: Revised Section, Source (U.S. Code), Source (Statutes at Large). Row 1: 44514(b) 49 App.:1348 (notes). Nov. 5, 1990, Pub. L. 101-508, §9115, 104 Stat. 1388-364. Nov. 5, 1990, Pub. L. 101-516, §330(a), 104 Stat. 2184.

In subsection (a)(1), the words “On or after July 15, 1987” are omitted as obsolete.

In subsection (a)(2), the words “after December 30, 1987” are omitted as obsolete. The words “the date of” are omitted as surplus.

In subsection (b), the text of section 9115(b) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-508, 104 Stat. 1388-364) and section 330(a) (last sentence) of the Department of Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1991 (Public Law 101-516, 104 Stat. 2184) is omitted as obsolete.

§ 44515. Advanced training facilities for maintenance technicians for air carrier aircraft

(a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration may make grants to not more than 4 vocational technical educational institutions to acquire or construct facilities to be used for the advanced training of maintenance technicians for air carrier aircraft.

(b) ELIGIBILITY.—The Administrator may make a grant under this section to a vocational technical educational institution only if the institution has a training curriculum that prepares aircraft maintenance technicians who hold airframe and power plant certificates under subpart D of part 65 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, to maintain, without direct supervision, air carrier aircraft.

(c) LIMITATION.—A vocational technical educational institution may not receive more than a total of \$5,000,000 in grants under this section. (Pub. L. 103-272, §1(e), July 5, 1994, 108 Stat. 1184.)

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Table with 3 columns: Revised Section, Source (U.S. Code), Source (Statutes at Large). Row 1: 44515 49 App.:1354 (note). Oct., 31, 1992, Pub. L. 102-581, §119(a)-(c), 106 Stat. 4883.

The words “vocational technical educational institution” are used throughout this section for consistency in this section.

IMPROVEMENT OF CURRICULUM STANDARDS FOR AVIATION MAINTENANCE TECHNICIANS

Pub. L. 108-176, title V, §504, Dec. 12, 2003, 117 Stat. 2559, provided that:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall ensure that the training standards for airframe and powerplant mechanics under part 65 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, are updated and revised in accordance with this section. The Administrator may update and revise the training standards through the initiation of a formal rule-making or by issuing an advisory circular or other agency guidance.

“(b) ELEMENTS FOR CONSIDERATION.—The updated and revised standards required under subsection (a) shall include those curriculum adjustments that are necessary to more accurately reflect current technology and maintenance practices.

“(c) CERTIFICATION.—Any adjustment or modification of current curriculum standards made pursuant to this

section shall be reflected in the certification examinations of airframe and powerplant mechanics.

“(d) COMPLETION.—The revised and updated training standards required by subsection (a) shall be completed not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act [Dec. 12, 2003].

“(e) PERIODIC REVIEWS AND UPDATES.—The Administrator shall review the content of the curriculum standards for training airframe and powerplant mechanics referred to in subsection (a) every 3 years after completion of the revised and updated training standards required under subsection (a) as necessary to reflect current technology and maintenance practices.”

IMPROVED TRAINING FOR AIRFRAME AND POWERPLANT MECHANICS

Pub. L. 106-181, title V, §517, Apr. 5, 2000, 114 Stat. 145, provided that: “The Administrator [of the Federal Aviation Administration] shall form a partnership with industry and labor to develop a model program to improve the curricula, teaching methods, and quality of instructors for training individuals that need certification as airframe and powerplant mechanics.”

§ 44516. Human factors program

(a) HUMAN FACTORS TRAINING.—

(1) AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS.—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall—

(A) address the problems and concerns raised by the National Research Council in its report “The Future of Air Traffic Control” on air traffic control automation; and

(B) respond to the recommendations made by the National Research Council.

(2) PILOTS AND FLIGHT CREWS.—The Administrator shall work with representatives of the aviation industry and appropriate aviation programs associated with universities to develop specific training curricula to address critical safety problems, including problems of pilots—

(A) in recovering from loss of control of an aircraft, including handling unusual attitudes and mechanical malfunctions;

(B) in deviating from standard operating procedures, including inappropriate responses to emergencies and hazardous weather;

(C) in awareness of altitude and location relative to terrain to prevent controlled flight into terrain; and

(D) in landing and approaches, including nonprecision approaches and go-around procedures.

(b) TEST PROGRAM.—The Administrator shall establish a test program in cooperation with air carriers to use model Jeppesen approach plates or other similar tools to improve precision-like landing approaches for aircraft.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the status of the Administration’s efforts to encourage the adoption and implementation of advanced qualification programs for air carriers under this section.

(d) ADVANCED QUALIFICATION PROGRAM DEFINED.—In this section, the term “advanced

qualification program” means an alternative method for qualifying, training, certifying, and ensuring the competency of flight crews and other commercial aviation operations personnel subject to the training and evaluation requirements of parts 121 and 135 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations.

(Added Pub. L. 106-181, title VII, §713(a), Apr. 5, 2000, 114 Stat. 160.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The date of the enactment of this section, referred to in subsec. (c), is the date of enactment of Pub. L. 106-181, which was approved Apr. 5, 2000.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section applicable only to fiscal years beginning after Sept. 30, 1999, see section 3 of Pub. L. 106-181, set out as an Effective Date of 2000 Amendments note under section 106 of this title.

§ 44517. Program to permit cost sharing of air traffic modernization projects

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the requirements of this section, the Secretary may carry out a program under which the Secretary may make grants to project sponsors for not more than 10 eligible projects per fiscal year for the purpose of improving aviation safety and enhancing mobility of the Nation’s air transportation system by encouraging non-Federal investment in critical air traffic control equipment and software.

(b) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of an eligible project carried out under the program shall not exceed 33 percent. The non-Federal share of the cost of an eligible project shall be provided from non-Federal sources, including revenues collected pursuant to section 40117.

(c) LIMITATION ON GRANT AMOUNTS.—No eligible project may receive more than \$5,000,000 in Federal funds under the program.

(d) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall use amounts appropriated under section 48101(a) to carry out the program.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) ELIGIBLE PROJECT.—The term “eligible project” means a project to purchase equipment or software relating to the Nation’s air traffic control system that is certified or approved by the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration and that promotes safety, efficiency, or mobility. Such projects may include—

(A) airport-specific air traffic facilities and equipment, including local area augmentation systems, instrument landing systems, weather and wind shear detection equipment, and lighting improvements;

(B) automation tools to effect improvements in airport capacity, including passive final approach spacing tools and traffic management advisory equipment; and

(C) equipment and software that enhance airspace control procedures or assist in en route surveillance, including oceanic and offshore flight tracking.

(2) PROJECT SPONSOR.—The term “project sponsor” means any major user of the national airspace system, as determined by the Sec-