

HISTORICAL AND REVISION NOTES

Revised Section	Source (U.S. Code)	Source (Statutes at Large)
1118(a)	49 App.:1907(a) (1st-6th, last sentences).	Jan. 3, 1975, Pub. L. 93-633, § 309(a), 88 Stat. 2173; Oct. 11, 1976, Pub. L. 94-481, 90 Stat. 2080; Sept. 11, 1978, Pub. L. 95-363, § 2, 92 Stat. 597; Nov. 3, 1981, Pub. L. 97-74, § 2, 95 Stat. 1065; June 6, 1983, Pub. L. 98-37, 97 Stat. 204; July 19, 1988, Pub. L. 100-372, § 2, 102 Stat. 876; Nov. 28, 1990, Pub. L. 101-641, § 2, 104 Stat. 4654.
1118(b)	49 App.:1907(b) (1st, 2d sentences).	Jan. 3, 1975, Pub. L. 93-633, 88 Stat. 2156, § 309(b); added July 19, 1988, Pub. L. 100-372, § 2(b), 102 Stat. 876.
1118(c)	49 App.:1907(a) (7th sentence), (b) (last sentence).	

In subsection (a), the words “to the National Transportation Safety Board” are added for clarity and consistency in the revised title. References to the fiscal years ending June 30, 1975, through September 30, 1992, are omitted as obsolete.

In subsection (b)(2), the words “amounts equal to amounts expended annually out of the fund” are substituted for “to replenish the fund annually” for clarity.

AMENDMENTS

2006—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 109-443, § 8(a), struck out “and” after “2005,” and substituted “2006, \$81,594,000 for fiscal year 2007, and \$92,625,000 for fiscal year 2008.” for “2006.”

Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 109-443, § 8(b)(1), amended subsec. (c) generally. Prior to amendment, subsec. (c) related to appropriations and fees for the National Transportation Safety Board Academy.

Subsec. (d). Pub. L. 109-443, § 8(c), struck out heading and text of subsec. (d). Text read as follows: “The National Transportation Safety Board shall transmit an annual report to the Congress on the activities and operations of the National Transportation Safety Board Academy.”

2003—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 108-168, § 2(a), struck out “and” after “fiscal year 2001,” and substituted “\$73,325,000 for fiscal year 2003, \$78,757,000 for fiscal year 2004, \$83,011,000 for fiscal year 2005, and \$87,539,000 for fiscal year 2006. Such sums shall” for “such sums to”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 108-168, § 2(b), added second sentence and struck out former second sentence which read as follows: “Amounts equal to the amounts expended annually out of the fund are authorized to be appropriated to the emergency fund.”

Subsecs. (c), (d). Pub. L. 108-168, § 2(c), added subsecs. (c) and (d).

2000—Pub. L. 106-424 amended section catchline and text generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated for the purposes of this chapter \$37,580,000 for fiscal year 1994, \$44,000,000 for fiscal year 1995, \$45,100,000 for fiscal year 1996, \$42,400,00 for fiscal year 1997, \$44,400,000 for fiscal year 1998, and \$46,600,000 for fiscal year 1999. Such sums shall remain available until expended.

“(b) EMERGENCY FUND.—The Board has an emergency fund of \$1,000,000 available for necessary expenses of the Board, not otherwise provided for, for accident investigations. The following amounts may be appropriated to the fund:

“(1) \$1,000,000 to establish the fund.

“(2) amounts equal to amounts expended annually out of the fund.

“(c) AVAILABILITY OF AMOUNTS.—Amounts appropriated under this section remain available until expended.”

1996—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 104-291 struck out “and” after “1995,” and inserted “, \$42,400,00 for fiscal year

1997, \$44,400,000 for fiscal year 1998, and \$46,600,000 for fiscal year 1999.” before period at end of first sentence.

1994—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 103-411 reenacted heading without change and amended text generally. Prior to amendment, text read as follows: “Not more than \$38,800,000 may be appropriated to the National Transportation Safety Board for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1993, to carry out this chapter.”

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 2006 AMENDMENT

Pub. L. 109-443, § 8(b)(2), Dec. 21, 2006, 120 Stat. 3300, provided that: “The amendments made by paragraph (1) [amending this section] shall take effect on October 1, 2005.”

§ 1119. Accident and safety data classification and publication

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the National Transportation Safety Board shall, in consultation and coordination with the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, develop a system for classifying air carrier accident data maintained by the Board.

(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The system developed under this section shall provide for the classification of accident and safety data in a manner that, in comparison to the system in effect on the date of the enactment of this section, provides for safety-related categories that provide clearer descriptions of accidents associated with air transportation, including a more refined classification of accidents which involve fatalities, injuries, or substantial damage and which are only related to the operation of an aircraft.

(2) PUBLIC COMMENT.—In developing a system of classification under paragraph (1), the Board shall provide adequate opportunity for public review and comment.

(3) FINAL CLASSIFICATION.—After providing for public review and comment, and after consulting with the Administrator, the Board shall issue final classifications. The Board shall ensure that air travel accident covered under this section is classified in accordance with the final classifications issued under this section for data for calendar year 1997, and for each subsequent calendar year.

(4) PUBLICATION.—The Board shall publish on a periodic basis accident and safety data in accordance with the final classifications issued under paragraph (3).

(5) RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATOR.—The Administrator may, from time to time, request the Board to consider revisions (including additions to the classification system developed under this section). The Board shall respond to any request made by the Administrator under this section not later than 90 days after receiving that request.

(c) APPEALS.—

(1) NOTIFICATION OF RIGHTS.—In any case in which an employee of the Board determines that an occurrence associated with the operation of an aircraft constitutes an accident, the employee shall notify the owner or operator of that aircraft of the right to appeal that determination to the Board.

(2) PROCEDURE.—The Board shall establish and publish the procedures for appeals under this subsection.

(3) LIMITATION ON APPLICABILITY.—This subsection shall not apply in the case of an accident that results in a loss of life.

(Added Pub. L. 104-264, title IV, § 407(a)(1), Oct. 9, 1996, 110 Stat. 3257; amended Pub. L. 108-168, § 5, Dec. 6, 2003, 117 Stat. 2034.)

REFERENCES IN TEXT

The date of the enactment of this section, referred to in subsecs. (a) and (b)(1), is the date of enactment of Pub. L. 104-264, which was approved Oct. 9, 1996.

AMENDMENTS

2003—Subsec. (c). Pub. L. 108-168 added subsec. (c).

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.

SUBCHAPTER III—AUTHORITY

§ 1131. General authority

(a) GENERAL.—(1) The National Transportation Safety Board shall investigate or have investigated (in detail the Board prescribes) and establish the facts, circumstances, and cause or probable cause of—

(A) an aircraft accident the Board has authority to investigate under section 1132 of this title or an aircraft accident involving a public aircraft as defined by section 40102(a)(37)¹ of this title other than an aircraft operated by the Armed Forces or by an intelligence agency of the United States;

(B) a highway accident, including a railroad grade crossing accident, the Board selects in cooperation with a State;

(C) a railroad accident in which there is a fatality or substantial property damage, or that involves a passenger train;

(D) a pipeline accident in which there is a fatality, substantial property damage, or significant injury to the environment;

(E) a major marine casualty (except a casualty involving only public vessels) occurring on or under the navigable waters, internal waters, or the territorial sea of the United States as described in Presidential Proclamation No. 5928 of December 27, 1988, or involving a vessel of the United States (as defined in section 2101(46)¹ of title 46), under regulations prescribed jointly by the Board and the head of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating; and

(F) any other accident related to the transportation of individuals or property when the Board decides—

- (i) the accident is catastrophic;
- (ii) the accident involves problems of a recurring character; or
- (iii) the investigation of the accident would carry out this chapter.

(2)(A) Subject to the requirements of this paragraph, an investigation by the Board under paragraph (1)(A)–(D) or (F) of this subsection has priority over any investigation by another department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government. The Board shall provide for appropriate participation by other departments, agencies, or instrumentalities in the investigation. However, those departments, agencies, or instrumentalities may not participate in the decision of the Board about the probable cause of the accident.

(B) If the Attorney General, in consultation with the Chairman of the Board, determines and notifies the Board that circumstances reasonably indicate that the accident may have been caused by an intentional criminal act, the Board shall relinquish investigative priority to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The relinquishment of investigative priority by the Board shall not otherwise affect the authority of the Board to continue its investigation under this section.

(C) If a Federal law enforcement agency suspects and notifies the Board that an accident being investigated by the Board under subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D) of paragraph (1) may have been caused by an intentional criminal act, the Board, in consultation with the law enforcement agency, shall take necessary actions to ensure that evidence of the criminal act is preserved.

(3) This section and sections 1113, 1116(b), 1133, and 1134(a) and (c)–(e) of this title do not affect the authority of another department, agency, or instrumentality of the Government to investigate an accident under applicable law or to obtain information directly from the parties involved in, and witnesses to, the accident. The Board and other departments, agencies, and instrumentalities shall ensure that appropriate information developed about the accident is exchanged in a timely manner.

(b) ACCIDENTS INVOLVING PUBLIC VESSELS.—(1) The Board or the head of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating shall investigate and establish the facts, circumstances, and cause or probable cause of a marine accident involving a public vessel and any other vessel. The results of the investigation shall be made available to the public.

(2) Paragraph (1) of this subsection and subsection (a)(1)(E) of this section do not affect the responsibility, under another law of the United States, of the head of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating.

(c) ACCIDENTS NOT INVOLVING GOVERNMENT MISFEASANCE OR NONFEASANCE.—(1) When asked by the Board, the Secretary of Transportation or the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating may—

(A) investigate an accident described under subsection (a) or (b) of this section in which misfeasance or nonfeasance by the Government has not been alleged; and

(B) report the facts and circumstances of the accident to the Board.

(2) The Board shall use the report in establishing cause or probable cause of an accident described under subsection (a) or (b) of this section.

¹ See References in Text note below.