

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1344

To amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to provide expedited air passenger screening to severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces and severely injured or disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 21, 2013

Ms. GABBARD (for herself, Mr. JOYCE, and Mr. RICHMOND) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, to direct the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) to provide expedited air passenger screening to severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces and severely injured or disabled veterans, 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 cited as the “Helping Heroes Fly Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. OPERATIONS CENTER PROGRAM FOR SEVERELY IN-**
2 **JURED OR DISABLED MEMBERS OF THE**
3 **ARMED FORCES AND SEVERELY INJURED OR**
4 **DISABLED VETERANS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 449 of
6 title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
7 end the following new section:

8 **“§ 44927. Expedited screening for severely injured or**
9 **disabled members of the Armed Forces**
10 **and severely injured or disabled veterans**

11 “(a) PASSENGER SCREENING.—The Assistant Sec-
12 retary, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the
13 Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and organizations that ad-
14 vocate on behalf of members of the Armed Forces and vet-
15 erans, including organizations that advocate on behalf of
16 severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces
17 and severely injured or disabled veterans, shall develop
18 and implement a process to provide expedited passenger
19 screening services for severely injured or disabled mem-
20 bers of the Armed Forces and severely injured or disabled
21 veterans. Such process shall be designed to protect the pri-
22 vacy of the individual being screened to the maximum ex-
23 tent practicable.

24 “(b) OPERATIONS CENTER.—As part of the process
25 required under subsection (a), the Assistant Secretary
26 shall maintain an operations center to provide support and

1 facilitate the movement of severely injured or disabled
2 members of the Armed Forces and severely injured or dis-
3 abled veterans through screening prior to boarding a pas-
4 senger aircraft operated by an air carrier or foreign air
5 carrier in air transportation or intrastate air transpor-
6 tation. Such operations center shall be operational at all
7 times.

8 “(c) PROTOCOLS.—The Assistant Secretary shall—

9 “(1) establish and publish protocols, in con-
10 sultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Sec-
11 retary of Veterans Affairs, and organizations that
12 advocate on behalf of members of the Armed Forces
13 and veterans, including organizations that advocate
14 on behalf of severely injured or disabled members of
15 the Armed Forces and severely injured or disabled
16 veterans, under which a severely injured or disabled
17 member of the Armed Forces or severely injured or
18 disabled veteran, or the family member or other rep-
19 resentative of such a member or veteran, may con-
20 tact the operations center maintained under sub-
21 section (b) and request expedited screening services
22 described in subsection (a) for the member or vet-
23 eran; and

24 “(2) upon receipt of such a request, require
25 such operations center to notify the appropriate

1 Federal security director of the request to facilitate
2 the expedited passenger screening services described
3 in subsection (a) for the member or veteran.

4 “(d) TRAINING.—The Assistant Secretary shall inte-
5 grate training on the protocols established under sub-
6 section (c) into the training provided to new employees
7 and recurrent training for all employees who provide pas-
8 senger screening services.

9 “(e) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date
10 of the enactment of this section, and annually thereafter,
11 the Assistant Secretary shall submit to Congress a report
12 on the implementation of this section. Each such report
13 shall include each of the following:

14 “(1) Information on the training provided
15 under subsection (d).

16 “(2) Information on the consultations between
17 the Assistant Secretary and organizations that advo-
18 cate on behalf of members of the Armed Forces and
19 veterans as described in subsection (a).

20 “(3) The number of people who accessed the
21 operations center during the period covered by the
22 report.

23 “(4) Such other information as the Assistant
24 Secretary determines is appropriate.”.

1 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
2 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
3 after the item relating to section 44926 following new
4 item:

“44927. Expedited screening for severely injured or disabled members of the
Armed Forces and severely injured or disabled veterans.”.

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