

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1344

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 22, 2013

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation

AN ACT

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 be cited as the “Helping Heroes Fly
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. OPERATIONS CENTER PROGRAM FOR SEVERELY IN-**
7 **JURED OR DISABLED MEMBERS OF THE**
8 **ARMED FORCES AND SEVERELY INJURED OR**
9 **DISABLED VETERANS.**

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

13 **“§ 44927. Expedited screening for severely injured or**
14 **disabled members of the Armed Forces**
15 **and severely injured or disabled veterans**

16 “(a) PASSENGER SCREENING.—The Assistant Sec-
17 retary, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the
18 Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and organizations that ad-
19 vocate on behalf of members of the Armed Forces and vet-
20 erans, including organizations that advocate on behalf of
21 severely injured or disabled members of the Armed Forces
22 and severely injured or disabled veterans, shall develop
23 and implement a process to facilitate the ease of travel
24 and to the extent possible provide expedited passenger
25 screening services for severely injured or disabled mem-

1 bers of the Armed Forces, severely injured or disabled vet-
2 erans, and their accompanying family members or non-
3 medical attendants. Such process shall be designed to pro-
4 tect the privacy of the individual being screened to the
5 maximum extent practicable.

6 “(b) OPERATIONS CENTER.—As part of the process
7 required under subsection (a), the Assistant Secretary
8 shall maintain an operations center to provide support and
9 facilitate the movement of severely injured or disabled
10 members of the Armed Forces and severely injured or dis-
11 abled veterans through screening prior to boarding a pas-
12 senger aircraft operated by an air carrier or foreign air
13 carrier in air transportation or intrastate air transpor-
14 tation. Such operations center shall be operational at all
15 times.

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

17 “(1) establish and publish protocols, in con-
18 sultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Sec-
19 retary of Veterans Affairs, and organizations that
20 advocate on behalf of members of the Armed Forces
21 and veterans, including organizations that advocate
22 on behalf of severely injured or disabled members of
23 the Armed Forces and severely injured or disabled
24 veterans, under which a severely injured or disabled
25 member of the Armed Forces or severely injured or

1 disabled veteran, or the family member or other rep-
2 resentative of such a member or veteran, may con-
3 tact the operations center maintained under sub-
4 section (b) and request expedited screening services
5 described in subsection (a) for the member or vet-
6 eran; and

7 “(2) upon receipt of such a request, require
8 such operations center to notify the appropriate
9 Federal security director of the request to facilitate
10 the expedited passenger screening services described
11 in subsection (a) for the member or veteran.

12 “(d) TRAINING.—The Assistant Secretary shall inte-
13 grate training on the protocols established under sub-
14 section (c) into the training provided to all employees who
15 will provide the screening services described in subsection
16 (a).

17 “(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
18 tion affects the authority of the Assistant Secretary to re-
19 quire additional screening of a severely injured or disabled
20 member of the Armed Forces, a severely injured or dis-
21 abled veteran, or their accompanying family members or
22 nonmedical attendants, if intelligence, law enforcement, or
23 other information indicates that additional screening is
24 necessary.

1 “(f) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date
2 of the enactment of this section, and annually thereafter,
3 the Assistant Secretary shall submit to Congress a report
4 on the implementation of this section. Each such report
5 shall include each of the following:

6 “(1) Information on the training provided
7 under subsection (d).

8 “(2) Information on the consultations between
9 the Assistant Secretary and organizations that advo-
10 cate on behalf of members of the Armed Forces and
11 veterans as described in subsection (a).

12 “(3) The number of people who accessed the
13 operations center during the period covered by the
14 report.

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

17 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
18 at the beginning of such chapter is amended by inserting
19 after the item relating to section 44926 the following new
20 item:

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

Passed the House of Representatives May 21, 2013.

Attest: KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk.