

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3150

To amend title 49, United States Code, with respect to helicopter crash resistant fuel systems, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 29, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER (for himself and Mr. POLIS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, with respect to helicopter crash resistant fuel systems, 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 “Helicopter Fuel Sys-
5 tem Safety Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. HELICOPTER CRASH RESISTANT FUEL SYSTEMS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 447 of title 49, United
8 States Code, is amended by adding at the end the fol-
9 lowing:

1 **“§ 44736. Fuel system crash resistance**

2 “(a) PROHIBITION.—

3 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A person may not operate
4 a covered rotorcraft in United States airspace unless
5 the design of the rotorcraft is certified by the Ad-
6 ministrator of the Federal Aviation Administration
7 to—

8 “(A) comply with the requirements under
9 paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (5), and (6) of section
10 27.952(a) and section 27.952(f) or paragraphs
11 (1), (2), (3), (5), and (6) of section 29.952(a)
12 and section 29.952(f) of title 14, Code of Fed-
13 eral Regulations, applicable to the category of
14 the rotorcraft; or

15 “(B) employ other means acceptable to the
16 Administrator to provide an equivalent level of
17 fuel system crash resistance.

18 “(2) COVERED ROTORCRAFT DEFINED.—In this
19 subsection, the term ‘covered rotorcraft’ means a
20 rotorcraft for which manufacture was completed, as
21 determined by the Administrator, on or after the
22 date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of
23 this section.

24 “(b) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—The Adminis-
25 trator shall—

1 “(1) expedite the certification and validation of
2 United States and foreign type designs and retrofit
3 kits that improve fuel system crashworthiness; and

4 “(2) not later than 180 days after the date of
5 enactment of this section, and periodically there-
6 after, issue a bulletin to—

7 “(A) inform rotorcraft owners and opera-
8 tors of available modifications to improve fuel
9 system crashworthiness; and

10 “(B) urge that such modifications be in-
11 stalled as soon as practicable.

12 “(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
13 tion may be construed to affect the operation of a rotor-
14 craft by the Department of Defense.”.

15 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chap-
16 ter 447 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by
17 adding at the end the following:

“44736. Fuel system crash resistance.”.

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