

Public Law 105-155  
105th Congress

An Act

To authorize the Federal Aviation Administration's research, engineering, and development programs for fiscal years 1998 and 1999, and for other purposes.

Feb. 11, 1998

[H.R. 1271]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

FAA Research,  
Engineering, and  
Development  
Authorization  
Act of 1998.  
49 USC 40101  
note.

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the "FAA Research, Engineering, and Development Authorization Act of 1998".

**SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

Section 48102(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

- (1) by striking "and" at the end of paragraph (2)(J);
- (2) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (3)(J) and inserting in lieu thereof a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(4) for fiscal year 1998, \$226,800,000, including—

"(A) \$16,379,000 for system development and infrastructure projects and activities;

"(B) \$27,089,000 for capacity and air traffic management technology projects and activities;

"(C) \$23,362,000 for communications, navigation, and surveillance projects and activities;

"(D) \$16,600,000 for weather projects and activities;

"(E) \$7,854,000 for airport technology projects and activities;

"(F) \$49,202,000 for aircraft safety technology projects and activities;

"(G) \$53,759,000 for system security technology projects and activities;

"(H) \$26,550,000 for human factors and aviation medicine projects and activities;

"(I) \$2,891,000 for environment and energy projects and activities; and

"(J) \$3,114,000 for innovative/cooperative research projects and activities; and

"(5) for fiscal year 1999, \$229,673,000."

**SEC. 3. RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM INVOLVING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS.**

(a) PROGRAM.—Section 48102 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(h) RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAM INVOLVING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS.—

“(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall establish a program to utilize undergraduate and technical colleges, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities and Hispanic Serving Institutions, in research on subjects of relevance to the Federal Aviation Administration. Grants may be awarded under this subsection for—

“(A) research projects to be carried out at primarily undergraduate institutions and technical colleges;

“(B) research projects that combine research at primarily undergraduate institutions and technical colleges with other research supported by the Federal Aviation Administration; or

“(C) research on future training requirements on projected changes in regulatory requirements for aircraft maintenance and power plant licensees.

“(2) **NOTICE OF CRITERIA.**—Within 6 months after the date of the enactment of the FAA Research, Engineering, and Development Authorization Act of 1998, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall establish and publish in the Federal Register criteria for the submittal of proposals for a grant under this subsection, and for the awarding of such grants.

“(3) **PRINCIPAL CRITERIA.**—The principal criteria for the awarding of grants under this subsection shall be—

“(A) the relevance of the proposed research to technical research needs identified by the Federal Aviation Administration;

“(B) the scientific and technical merit of the proposed research; and

“(C) the potential for participation by undergraduate students in the proposed research.

“(4) **COMPETITIVE, MERIT-BASED EVALUATION.**—Grants shall be awarded under this subsection on the basis of evaluation of proposals through a competitive, merit-based process.”

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Section 48102(a) of title 49, United States Code, as amended by this Act, is further amended by inserting “, of which \$750,000 shall be for carrying out the grant program established under subsection (h)” after “projects and activities” in paragraph (4)(J).

Federal Register,  
publication.

49 USC 48102  
note.

**SEC. 4. NOTICES.**

(a) **REPROGRAMMING.**—If any funds authorized by the amendments made by this Act are subject to a reprogramming action that requires notice to be provided to the Appropriations Committees of the House of Representatives and the Senate, notice of such action shall concurrently be provided to the Committees on Science and Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.

(b) **NOTICE OF REORGANIZATION.**—The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall provide notice to the Committees on Science, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and the Committees on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and Appropriations of the Senate, not later than 30 days before any major reorganization (as determined

by the Administrator) of any program of the Federal Aviation Administration for which funds are authorized by this Act.

**SEC. 5. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE YEAR 2000 PROBLEM.**

With the year 2000 fast approaching, it is the sense of Congress that the Federal Aviation Administration should—

(1) give high priority to correcting all 2-digit date-related problems in its computer systems to ensure that those systems continue to operate effectively in the year 2000 and beyond;

(2) assess immediately the extent of the risk to the operations of the Federal Aviation Administration posed by the problems referred to in paragraph (1), and plan and budget for achieving Year 2000 compliance for all of its mission-critical systems; and

(3) develop contingency plans for those systems that the Federal Aviation Administration is unable to correct in time.

Approved February 11, 1998.

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**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—H.R. 1271:**

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 105-61 (Comm. on Science).

SENATE REPORTS: No. 105-152 (Comm. on Commerce, Science, and Transportation).

**CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:**

Vol. 143 (1997): Apr. 29, considered and passed House.

Nov. 13, considered and passed Senate, amended.

Vol. 144 (1998): Feb. 3, House concurred in Senate amendments.