

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8393

To amend title 49, United States Code, to require that certain rotorcraft manufactured before April 5, 2020, comply with requirements relating to fuel system crash resistance, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 14, 2024

Mr. NEGUSE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

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## A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, to require that certain rotorcraft manufactured before April 5, 2020, comply with requirements relating to fuel system crash resistance, 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 Passenger  
5 Protection Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. CRASH-RESISTANT FUEL SYSTEMS IN ROTORCRAFT.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Federal  
3 Aviation Administration shall task the Aviation Rule-  
4 making Advisory Committee to—

5 (1) review the data analysis conducted and the  
6 recommendations developed by the Aviation Rule-  
7 making Advisory Committee Rotorcraft Occupant  
8 Protection Working Group of the Administration;

9 (2) update the 2018 report of such working  
10 group on rotorcraft occupant protection by—

11 (A) reviewing National Transportation  
12 Safety Board data from 2016 through 2023 on  
13 post-crash fires in helicopter accidents; and

14 (B) determining whether and to what ex-  
15 tent crash-resistant fuel systems could have  
16 prevented fatalities; and

17 (3) develop recommendations for either the Ad-  
18 ministrator or the helicopter industry to encourage  
19 helicopter owners and operators to expedite the in-  
20 stallation of crash-resistant fuel systems in the air-  
21 craft of such owners and operators regardless of  
22 original certification and manufacture date.

23 (b) SCHEDULE.—

24 (1) DEADLINE.—Not later than 18 months  
25 after the Administrator tasks the Aviation Rule-  
26 making Advisory Committee under subsection (a),

1 the Committee shall submit the recommendations  
2 developed under subsection (a)(2) to the Adminis-  
3 trator.

4 (2) IMPLEMENTATION.—If applicable, and not  
5 later than 180 days after receiving the recommenda-  
6 tions under paragraph (1), the Administrator  
7 shall—

8 (A) begin implementing, as appropriate,  
9 any consensus safety recommendations the Ad-  
10 ministrator receives from the Aviation Rule-  
11 making Advisory Committee, and brief the  
12 Committee on Transportation and Infrastruc-  
13 ture of the House of Representatives and the  
14 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Trans-  
15 portation of the Senate on any recommenda-  
16 tions the Administrator does not implement;  
17 and

18 (B) partner with the United States Heli-  
19 copter Safety Team, as appropriate, to facilitate  
20 implementation of any recommendations for the  
21 helicopter industry pursuant to subsection  
22 (a)(2).

23 **SEC. 3. HELICOPTER FUEL SYSTEM SAFETY.**

24 Section 44737 of title 49, United States Code, is  
25 amended—

1           (1) in subsection (a)(2) by striking “the date  
2           that is 18 months after the date of enactment of  
3           this section” and inserting “April 5, 2020”;

4           (2) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as  
5           subsections (c) and (d), respectively; and

6           (3) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-  
7           lowing:

8           “(b) PROHIBITION FOR ROTORCRAFT MANUFAC-  
9           TURED BEFORE APRIL 5, 2020.—

10           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 5 years  
11           after the date of enactment of this subsection, a per-  
12           son may not operate in United States airspace a  
13           rotorcraft manufactured before April 5, 2020, for  
14           which the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Ad-  
15           ministration has issued a standard airworthiness  
16           certificate, unless such rotorcraft includes a fuel sys-  
17           tem that is certified by the Administrator to—

18           “(A) comply with the requirements applica-  
19           ble to the category of the rotorcraft under para-  
20           graphs (1), (2), (3), (5), and (6) of section  
21           27.952(a), section 27.952(f), and section  
22           27.963(g) (but allowing for a minimum punc-  
23           ture force of 250 pounds) or paragraphs (1),  
24           (2), (3), (5), and (6) of section 29.952(a), sec-  
25           tion 29.952(f), and section 29.963(b) (but al-

1           lowing for a minimum puncture force of 250  
2           pounds) of title 14, Code of Federal Regula-  
3           tions, as in effect on the date of enactment of  
4           this subsection; or

5                   “(B) employ other means acceptable to the  
6           Administrator to provide an equivalent level of  
7           fuel system crash resistance.

8                   “(2) EXCEPTION.—This subsection shall not  
9           apply to an unmanned aircraft that does not carry  
10          any occupants.”.

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