

S 579

National Transportation Safety Board Reauthorization Act of 2003

Congress: 108 (2003–2005, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Transportation and Public Works

Introduced: Mar 7, 2003

Current Status: Became Public Law No: 108-168.

Latest Action: Became Public Law No: 108-168. (Dec 6, 2003)

Law: 108-168 (Enacted Dec 6, 2003)

Official Text: https://www.congress.gov/bill/108th-congress/senate-bill/579

Sponsor

Name: Sen. McCain, John [R-AZ]

Party: Republican • State: AZ • Chamber: Senate

Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Hollings, Ernest F. [D-SC]	D · SC		Mar 7, 2003
Sen. Hutchison, Kay Bailey [R-TX]	R · TX		Mar 7, 2003
Sen. Lott, Trent [R-MS]	R · MS		Mar 7, 2003
Sen. Rockefeller, John D., IV [D-WV]	D · WV		Mar 7, 2003

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Reported By	May 22, 2003
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Bills of Interest - Exchange of Letters	Sep 14, 2004

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Transportation and Public Works

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
108 HR 1527	Related bill	May 15, 2003: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

National Transportation Safety Board Reauthorization Act of 2003 - (Sec. 2) Amends Federal transportation law to extend the authorization of appropriations for the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) for FY 2003 through 2006, including the NTSB Academy and an emergency fund.

Authorizes appropriations necessary to increase the emergency fund from \$2 million to \$3 million.

Authorizes the NTSB to impose and collect appropriate fees for services provided by or through the Academy. Credits receipts as offsetting collections to the account that finances Academy activities. Requires an annual report on the activities and operations of the Academy.

(Sec. 3) Relieves the NTSB of the duty to render specified assistance to families of passengers involved in an aircraft accident if the NTSB has relinquished its investigative priority to investigate it and the Federal agency to which it has relinquished such priority is willing and able to provide assistance to the victims and families of the passengers. Requires the NTSB, however, even if it has relinquished such priority, to assist, to the maximum extent possible, the agency to which it has relinquished it in assisting families with respect to the accident.

Directs the NTSB and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to revise their 1977 agreement on the investigation of accidents to take into account the amendments made by this Act, and to submit such revision to specified congressional committees.

(Sec. 4) Allows the NTSB to enter into agreements or contracts necessary to conduct accident investigations without regard to competition requirements if necessary to expedite investigation. Requires that each contract for at least \$25,000 be enumerated in the NTSB's annual report to Congress.

(Sec. 5) Requires any NTSB employee, whenever he or she determines that an occurrence associated with the operation of an aircraft, but not resulting in a loss of life, constitutes an accident, to notify the aircraft owner or operator of the right to appeal that determination to the NTSB. Requires the NTSB to establish and publish appeal procedures.

(Sec. 6) Revises requirements for an annual report to Congress by the Secretary of Transportation on NTSB transportation safety recommendations. Requires the Secretary to report on February 1 of each year to Congress and the NTSB on the regulatory status of each recommendation on the NTSB "most wanted list," until final regulatory action is taken or the Secretary (or an Administration within the Department of Transportation (DOT)) determines and reports that no action should be taken. Requires the NTSB to report to specified congressional committees on March 1 of each year if it has not received the Secretary's report.

(Sec. 8) Amends Federal transportation law and the Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act of 1999 to make certain technical and conforming amendments with respect to the investigative authority of the DOT Inspector General.

(Sec. 9) Requires the Secretary to report biennially to Congress and the NTSB on the regulatory status of each NTSB open safety recommendation concerning: (1) 15-passenger van safety; (2) railroad grade crossing safety; and (3) medical certifications for a commercial driver's license. Requires NTSB notification to specified congressional committees of any failure to receive such report.

Actions Timeline

- **Dec 6, 2003:** Signed by President.
- **Dec 6, 2003:** Signed by President.
- **Dec 6, 2003:** Became Public Law No: 108-168.
- **Dec 6, 2003:** Became Public Law No: 108-168.
- **Nov 25, 2003:** Presented to President.
- **Nov 25, 2003:** Presented to President.
- **Nov 22, 2003:** Considered by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR 11/21/2003 H12298-12299)
- **Nov 22, 2003:** Mr. DeLay asked unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table and consider.
- **Nov 22, 2003:** Passed/agreed to in House: On passage Passed without objection.(text: CR 11/21/2003 H12298-12299)
- **Nov 22, 2003:** On passage Passed without objection. (text: CR 11/21/2003 H12298-12299)
- **Nov 22, 2003:** Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection.
- **Nov 21, 2003:** Measure laid before Senate by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR S15507-15508)
- **Nov 21, 2003:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.(text as passed Senate: CR S15508)
- **Nov 21, 2003:** Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent. (text as passed Senate: CR S15508)
- **Nov 21, 2003:** Received in the House.
- **Nov 21, 2003:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **May 22, 2003:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Reported by Senator McCain without amendment. With written report No. 108-53.
- **May 22, 2003:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Reported by Senator McCain without amendment. With written report No. 108-53.
- **May 22, 2003:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 112.
- **Mar 13, 2003:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.
- **Mar 7, 2003:** Introduced in Senate
- **Mar 7, 2003:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. (text of measure as introduced: CR S3372-3373)