

S 3679

National Transportation Safety Board Reauthorization Act of 2006

Congress: 109 (2005–2007, Ended)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Transportation and Public Works

Introduced: Jul 18, 2006

Current Status: Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Latest Action: Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. (Sep 25, 2006)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/109th-congress/senate-bill/3679>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Burns, Conrad R. [R-MT]

Party: Republican • **State:** MT • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (1 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Rockefeller, John D., IV [D-WV]	D · WV		Jul 18, 2006

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee	Senate	Reported By	Sep 15, 2006
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee	House	Referred To	Sep 26, 2006

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Transportation and Public Works

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
109 HR 5076	Related bill	Dec 21, 2006: Became Public Law No: 109-443.

National Transportation Safety Board Reauthorization Act of 2006 - (Sec. 2) Amends federal transportation law to require a certain National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) annual report to Congress to include: (1) a description of NTSB Academy activities and operations; (2) a list of transportation accidents during the prior calendar year that the NTSB did not investigate, including an explanation of why they were not investigated; (3) a list of ongoing transportation accident investigations that have exceeded the time for completion by NTSB order, including an explanation for the additional time required to complete such investigations; and (4) a description of each contract entered into during the preceding calendar year by the NTSB for the provision of facilities or accident-related and technical services or training in accident investigation theory and techniques, and the rationale for dispensing with competition requirements with respect to such contracts.

Directs the NTSB to develop, and submit to the Comptroller General and Congress, a plan for the NTSB Academy to achieve self-sufficiency and the NTSB to utilize fully the Academy's facilities and resources. Requires the NTSB to review the Secretary of Transportation's report to Congress and the NTSB regarding the regulatory status of each recommendation made by the NTSB to the Secretary that is on the NTSB's "most wanted list" and transmit comments on the report to the Secretary and Congress. Requires the NTSB to provide recommendations and comments to Congress with respect to pending transportation safety reauthorization legislation.

(Sec. 3) Authorizes the NTSB, in addition to current related powers, to enter into noncompetitive contracts in order to expedite the investigation of transportation accidents.

(Sec. 4) Grants the NTSB the authority to investigate major marine casualties occurring in all internal U.S. waters, in addition to the current authority to investigate on U.S. navigable waters or territorial seas. Grants the Secretary of the department in which the Coast Guard is operating the authority to investigate transportation accidents not involving Government misfeasance or nonfeasance.

Appoints a Managing Director to the NTSB.

Directs the NTSB to: (1) develop and approve a process for the NTSB's review and comment or approval of documents submitted to the President, Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), or Congress; and (2) develop and implement a process available to all NTSB members that tracks the status of pending NTSB investigations. Directs the NTSB to maintain at least one fulltime employee in each state located more than 1,000 miles from the nearest NTSB regional office to provide initial investigative response to accidents investigated by the NTSB.

(Sec. 5) Directs Amtrak to submit to the NTSB, the Secretary of Transportation, and the Secretary of Homeland Security a plan to address the needs of families of passengers involved in rail passenger accidents involving an Amtrak intercity train and resulting in a loss of life. Prohibits the NTSB, the Secretary, and Amtrak from releasing personal passenger information except to the passengers' families. Limits Amtrak's liability for damages in actions brought in federal or state court arising out of Amtrak's performance in preparing or providing passenger's lists, or in providing train reservation information, unless such liability was caused by Amtrak's conduct. Makes funds available to carry out this section.

(Sec. 6) Designates the Inspector General of the Department of Transportation (DOT) as the Inspector General of the NTSB (current law, has authority to review only business operations of NTSB). Authorizes appropriations.

(Sec. 7) Requires the NTSB to continue to develop and implement internal audit controls for its operations.

(Sec. 8) Directs the Inspector General of the DOT to investigate the contractors and oversight agencies of the Central Artery tunnel project in Boston, Massachusetts.

(Sec. 9) Directs the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to report to Congress on why the FAA has not implemented the aviation recommendations in the NTSB's "Most Wanted Transportation Safety Improvements, 2006".

(Sec. 10) Extends the authorization of appropriations for the NTSB through FY2008, including an emergency fund for necessary NTSB expenses for accident investigations.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 25, 2006:** Measure laid before Senate by unanimous consent. (consideration: CR S10100-10104; text of measure as reported in Senate: CR S10100-10104)
- **Sep 25, 2006:** Passed/agreed to in Senate: Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.
- **Sep 25, 2006:** Passed Senate with an amendment by Unanimous Consent.
- **Sep 25, 2006:** Received in the House.
- **Sep 25, 2006:** Message on Senate action sent to the House.
- **Sep 25, 2006:** Referred to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.
- **Sep 15, 2006:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Reported by Senator Stevens with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. With written report No. 109-335.
- **Sep 15, 2006:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Reported by Senator Stevens with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. With written report No. 109-335.
- **Sep 15, 2006:** Placed on Senate Legislative Calendar under General Orders. Calendar No. 613.
- **Jul 19, 2006:** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Ordered to be reported without amendment favorably.
- **Jul 18, 2006:** Introduced in Senate
- **Jul 18, 2006:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.