

American Aviator Act

Introduced by U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and John Hoeven (R-ND)

Bill establishes aviation program to help Veterans become commercial airline pilots

The *American Aviator Act* establishes a pilot program at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to authorize competitive grants supporting flight-training services to veterans who are not already military pilots. Flight-training schools that have established pathways to employment with commercial air carriers are eligible for federal grants to recruit and enroll veterans for flight training. Grants funding may be used for case management and flight-training services, including any additional training required to reach proficiency. Grants may also be used to provide tuition, books, training materials, equipment and to cover the cost of a private pilot license.

In selecting flight schools, FAA is encouraged to award grants to flight schools accredited by the Department of Education and may consider a number of factors, including the use of advanced technology and simulation, as well as anticipated time from start of training to employment.

The bill increases career opportunities for veterans and aims to break down barriers that may impede veterans from pursuing careers in aviation. Veterans participating in the program will receive flight training necessary to become a commercial pilot and other certificates, including certified flight instructor. Programs may cover costs beyond what is available through veteran education benefits. The bill also helps ensure there is an adequate future supply of qualified pilots to continue to provide safe and reliable air service to rural airports across the country.

This legislation builds off the Administration's Forces to Flyers research initiative lead by the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center.

The *American Aviator Act* is supported by the Air Line Pilots Association, Regional Airline Association and Airlines for America.