To amend title 49, United States Code, with respect to helicopter crash resistant fuel systems, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 29, 2017

Mr. PERLMUTTER (for himself and Mr. POLIS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, with respect to helicopter crash resistant fuel systems, and for other purposes.

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Helicopter Fuel System Safety Act”.

SEC. 2. HELICOPTER CRASH RESISTANT FUEL SYSTEMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 447 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:
§ 44736. Fuel system crash resistance

(a) Prohibition.—

(1) In general.—A person may not operate a covered rotorcraft in United States airspace unless the design of the rotorcraft is certified by the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to—

(A) comply with the requirements under paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (5), and (6) of section 27.952(a) and section 27.952(f) or paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (5), and (6) of section 29.952(a) and section 29.952(f) of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations, applicable to the category of the rotorcraft; or

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

(2) Covered rotorcraft defined.—In this subsection, the term ‘covered rotorcraft’ means a rotorcraft for which manufacture was completed, as determined by the Administrator, on or after the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this section.

(b) Administrative provisions.—The Administrator shall—
“(1) expedite the certification and validation of United States and foreign type designs and retrofit kits that improve fuel system crashworthiness; and “(2) not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, and periodically thereafter, issue a bulletin to—

“(A) inform rotorcraft owners and operators of available modifications to improve fuel system crashworthiness; and

“(B) urge that such modifications be installed as soon as practicable.

“(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to affect the operation of a rotorcraft by the Department of Defense.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 447 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“44736. Fuel system crash resistance.”.