

SINEMA_1 (MODIFIED)

Co-Sponsor: CAPITO



AMENDMENT NO. _____

Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To enhance aviation safety and save taxpayer expense by ensuring mandatory flight data may be retrieved from overwater operations.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—118th Cong., 1st Sess.

S. 1939

To amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2024 through 2028, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Ms. SINEMA

Viz:

1 On page 40, strike lines 19 through 23, and insert
2 the following:

3 (b) FLIGHT DATA RECOVERY FROM OVERWATER
4 OPERATIONS.—Chapter 447 of title 49, United States
5 Code, as amended by subsection (a), is further amended
6 by adding at the end the following new section:

7 “§ 44746. **Flight data recovery from overwater oper-**
8 **ations**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after
10 the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator
11 of the Federal Aviation Administration shall complete a

1 rulemaking proceeding to require that, not later than 4
2 years after the date of enactment of this section, all appli-
3 cable aircraft are—

4 “(1) fitted with a means, in the event of an ac-
5 cident, to recover mandatory flight data parameters
6 in a manner that does not require the underwater
7 retrieval of the cockpit voice recorder or flight data
8 recorder;

9 “(2) equipped with a tamper-resistant method
10 to broadcast sufficient information to a ground sta-
11 tion to establish the location where an applicable air-
12 craft terminates flight as the result of such an event;
13 and

14 “(3) equipped with an airframe low-frequency
15 underwater locating device that functions for at least
16 90 days and that can be detected by appropriate
17 equipment.

18 “(b) APPLICABLE AIRCRAFT DEFINED.—In this sec-
19 tion, the term ‘applicable aircraft’ means an aircraft man-
20 ufactured on or after January 1, 2027, that is—

21 “(1) operated under part 121 of title 14, Code
22 of Federal Regulations;

23 “(2) required by regulation to have a cockpit
24 voice recorder and a flight data recorder; and

25 “(3) used in extended overwater operations.”

1 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chap-
2 ter 447 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by
3 inserting after the item relating to section 44744 the fol-
4 lowing:

“44745. Recording devices.

“44746. Flight data recovery from overwater operations.”.

5 **SEC. 305. HELICOPTER SAFETY.**