

memorandum

Subject: Age Restriction for Commercial Pilots

Date: October 11, 1979

From: Dave Yaden *DY*

Reply to
Action of:

To: The Secretary

A group of older airline pilots is attempting through legislation and through you as the new Secretary to raise or eliminate the mandatory age 60 retirement rule. In order to satisfy some members of Congress, I met with a group of the pilots; David Mahan of the FAA was present at the meeting.

The House Public Works Committee has reported out legislation which would raise the mandatory retirement age to 61 and one-half years and mandate a study at NIH. However, before a floor vote, the House Budget Committee must grant a waiver for the \$600,000 dollars required for the study. The Budget Committee may refuse to grant the waiver, but if it does provide a waiver the bill will probably pass the House.

In an attempt to head off legislative action, FAA earlier this year initiated its own study of the mandatory age retirement rule, with a report due by the end of this year. However, because of the composition of the study group this has not satisfied the airline pilots seeking to modify the rule.

The Airline Pilots Association and organized labor, as well as the airlines, are opposed to any modification in the current rule. Nor does this seem to be an issue which the umbrella groups of senior citizens have rallied around.

I am informing the older pilots who visited with me of the following: Because of the medical and safety issues involved and because of the current action in Congress, this is not an issue which is appropriate for intervention by a new Secretary; you are leaving the issue with the FAA; we are not opposed to a new study of the issue by NIH.

Since this is not an issue which is appropriate for your involvement, this memo is for your information only.

cc: Langhorne Bond
David Mahan



It's a law we
can live with.

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