

The McCarran Bill —

THE McCarran Bill (S. 5) was presented to the 80th Congress on January 6, 1947. Senator McCarran has long been interested in a youth glider training program, having previously submitted a similar Bill in 1941 (S. 290). Bill (S. 5) would establish a Youth Training Division in the C.A.A. and a position of Director of Youth Training for the purpose of carrying out a National Glider Training Program.

The Soaring Society of America realizes the vital importance of getting such a bill enacted, and has carefully reviewed the McCarran Bill and is in agreement with its general purposes. It is felt, however, that there are a few points that need modification.

One of the major changes that most SAA Directors think advisable relates to Section 3, the qualifications for the Program's Director. It seems that the specific experience requirements listed, particularly those regarding the holding of a ground school license and the conducting of youth gliding programs, are too restrictive and would make it very difficult to select a man with the administrative training and capacity that such a position requires. However, it is agreed that the person selected should have a thorough aviation and gliding background and that he should be well qualified for the position. Hence, it is proposed to modify this Section to allow broader selection in choosing a Director.

In Section 2, it is felt that the age range of 12 to 18 years might be changed to 14 to 20 years. The reason for this proposed change is that the C.A.A. requires that a person be at least 14 years old to start gliding, and it does seem that any person under this age is not mature enough for the responsibility and the problems involved. With regard to the upper limit, it would allow a longer period for development of the youth, particularly at the point at which he is most receptive. Also, it will provide something to keep him occupied during the critical adjustment period immediately after the completion of high school.

In Section 4, it is felt that the Director should also make use of existing schools and facilities in order to help the program get started. In this respect, it would be highly important that instructor schools be set up for standardization purposes, so that a good safety record will result.

In order to carry out the above objectives, the following specific changes in the McCarran Bill are proposed:

- Sec. 2 (c) — Change the age range from 12 to 18 to — 14 to 20.
- Sec. 3 (b) — Add the phrase "or equivalent experience" after the word "Administration."
- Sec. 3 (c) — Delete the words "conducting youth glider programs."
- Sec. 4 (b) — Insert the following between the words "existing" and "governmental" — "schools, manufacturers, and facilities, as well as . . ."

With these modifications, the Bill should be an important force in establishing a real national glider program, and the SSA will back it to its fullest extent. It will take the help of every friend of gliding and soaring to have this Bill enacted. It should be brought to the attention of your Congressman and supported vigorously.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

January 6, 1947

Mr. McCarran introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce.

A BILL (S. 5)

To provide adequate aeronautical training for the youth of the United States.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress Assembled,—That there is hereby established in the Civil Aeronautics Administration a Youth Training Division, which shall be under the supervision of a Director of Youth Training (hereinafter referred to as the "Director").

Sec. 2 It shall be the duty of the Director (a) to sponsor and assist in the organization of glider clubs in high schools, colleges, universities, and other places by providing literature, outlines of club operation, including sample charters and bylaws, and the assignment of representatives of the Youth Training Division to such clubs, and, upon request, to assist in the financing and operation of such clubs; (b) to furnish such clubs with plans, specifications, and directions for the construction of various types of gliders and sailplanes; (c) to instruct persons between the ages of twelve and eighteen in the construction and operation of gliders and sailplanes; (d) to establish glider academies, glider ports, and workshops in connection therewith, in each State, for the purpose of training young persons in the construction, repair, and operation of gliders; (e) to conduct research and make studies and experiments with respect to gliders and their possible uses; and (f) to take such action as may be necessary and proper to promote interest in aeronautics among the youth of the Nation, including the furnishing of courses in various aeronautical subjects to high schools, colleges, and other educational institutions, and the conduct of competitions and the offering of prizes for excellence in various types of aeronautical skill.

Sec. 3. The Director shall be appointed by the Administrator of Civil Aeronautics, and shall have the following qualifications: (a) He shall be a natural born citizen of the United States; (b) he shall have held glider pilot, airplane pilot, and ground-school licenses, issued by the Civil Aeronautics Administration, for at least one year prior to his appointment; and (c) he shall have had practical experience in building gliders, conducting youth glider programs, and teaching others to fly gliders. The Director shall receive compensation at the rate of \$— per year.

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