

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 4**  
**OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE OF TEXAS**

At the end of subtitle A of title III, add the following:

1 **SEC. 3 \_\_\_\_ . STUDY OF TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE COMMU-**  
2 **NICATION OF AIRCRAFT WITH AIR TRAFFIC**  
3 **CONTROL TOWERS.**

4 (a) STUDY.—The Administrator of the Federal Avia-  
5 tion Administration shall complete a study that includes—

6 (1) the feasibility of providing communication  
7 from commercial aircraft to air traffic control towers  
8 when an aircraft leaves its flight plan or experiences  
9 dangerous or threatening conditions and pinpointing  
10 the location of an aircraft that is missing within 30  
11 minutes by disseminating the information globally in  
12 less than an hour to rescue and recovery agencies;

13 (2) information on the possible transition of  
14 black boxes to telematics systems that routinely  
15 throughout a flight communicate the contents of  
16 black boxes to secure store faculties managed by the  
17 National Transportation Safety Board;

18 (3) the investigation of the automation of data  
19 collection from aircraft while in flight and automate

1 the transmission of data in such a way that the rate  
2 of transition is dependent on the speed of the air-  
3 craft and the conditions under which it is being op-  
4 erated (turbulence and faster speed would trigger  
5 more frequent uplink of data from the black boxes  
6 on the flight) the warehousing of data that estab-  
7 lishes chain of custody for data if needed as the last  
8 official record of an aircraft, and the analysis of the  
9 data that is received to identify anomalous data;

10 (4) the review of the availability of tamper  
11 proof transponders that cannot be turned off in  
12 flight and an alert if a transponder is tampered with  
13 while in flight;

14 (5) the feasibility of securing transponders from  
15 being cloned or data being changed from the original  
16 designation that is assigned to the physical aircraft  
17 it is associated with and the proper safeguards to be  
18 sure that use of an assigned transponder identifica-  
19 tion protocol by another aircraft is prohibited by de-  
20 sign and the communication system and requisite  
21 protocols that will support the system, including a  
22 mechanism to investigate the ability to introduce  
23 transponder designations that are not assigned by  
24 aviation regulatory authorities;

1           (6) the investigation of the means by which the  
2           United States could enforce that no airline operating  
3           in the United States or operate gates at an airport  
4           in the country may have communication technology  
5           that does not conform to domestic available commu-  
6           nication technology standards; and

7           (7) the investigation of how quickly relevant  
8           statistical data on commercial aircraft can be shared  
9           with the Federal Aviation Administration, the De-  
10          partment of Homeland Security, and the North  
11          American Command in the event that a flight fails  
12          to respond to communication or ceases to be detect-  
13          able by ground control.

14          (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date  
15          of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal  
16          Aviation Administration shall submit a report containing  
17          the contents of the study conducted under subsection (a)  
18          to—

19                (1) the Committees of Transportation and In-  
20                frastructure, the Committee on Homeland Security,  
21                and Committee on Armed Services of the House of  
22                Representatives; and

23                (2) the Committees on Commerce, Science, and  
24                Transportation, the Committee on Homeland Secu-

1 rity and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee  
2 on Armed Services of the Senate.

3 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
4 authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 to carry out  
5 this section.

