

“(b) BASIS FOR EVALUATIONS.—The study shall evaluate the accuracy and reliability of measures for use as formula factors based on statistical quality standards developed by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, in consultation with the Committee on National Statistics of the National Academy of Sciences.

“(c) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act [June 9, 1998], the Director shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the results of the study carried out under subsection (a), including recommendations for changes in law necessary to implement the identified needs for improvements in long-term data collection programs.”

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON TRANSPORTATION STATISTICS

Section 6007 of Pub. L. 102-240 provided that:

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director of the Bureau of Transportation Statistics shall establish an Advisory Council on Transportation Statistics.

“(b) FUNCTION.—It shall be the function of the advisory council established under this section to advise the Director of the Bureau of Transportation Statistics on transportation statistics and analyses, including whether or not the statistics and analysis disseminated by the Bureau of Transportation Statistics are of high quality and are based upon the best available objective information.

“(c) MEMBERSHIP.—The advisory council established under this section shall be composed of not more than 6 members appointed by the Director who are not officers or employees of the United States and who (except for 1 member who shall have expertise in economics and 1 member who shall have expertise in statistics) have expertise in transportation statistics and analysis.

“(d) APPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act [5 App. U.S.C.] shall apply to the advisory council established under this section, except that section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act shall not apply to the Advisory Committee established under this section.”

STUDY OF DATA COLLECTION PROCEDURES AND CAPABILITIES OF DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Section 6008 of Pub. L. 102-240 provided that:

“(a) STUDY.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the establishment of the Bureau of Transportation Statistics, the Secretary shall enter into an agreement with the National Academy of Sciences to conduct a study on the adequacy of data collection procedures and capabilities of the Department of Transportation.

“(b) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall enter into the agreement under subsection (a) in consultation with the Director of the Bureau of Transportation Statistics.

“(c) CONTENTS.—The study under subsection (a) shall include an evaluation of the Department of Transportation’s data collection resources, needs, and requirements and an assessment and evaluation of the systems, capabilities, and procedures established by the Department to meet such needs and requirements, including the following:

- “(1) Data collection procedures and capabilities.
- “(2) Data analysis procedures and capabilities.
- “(3) Ability of data bases to integrate with one another.
- “(4) Computer hardware and software capabilities.
- “(5) Information management systems, including the ability of information management systems to integrate with one another.
- “(6) Availability and training of the personnel of the Department.
- “(7) Budgetary needs and resources of the Department for data collection.

“(d) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the agreement under subsection (a), the National

Academy of Sciences shall transmit to Congress a report on the results of the study under this section, including recommendations for improving the Department of Transportation’s data collection systems, capabilities, procedures, and analytical hardware and software and recommendations for improving the Department’s management information systems.”

§ 112. Research and Special Programs Administration

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Department of Transportation a Research and Special Programs Administration.

(b) ADMINISTRATOR.—

(1) APPOINTMENT.—The Administration shall be headed by an Administrator who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(2) REPORTING.—The Administrator shall report directly to the Secretary.

(c) DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR.—The Administration shall have a Deputy Administrator who shall be appointed by the Secretary of Transportation. The Deputy Administrator shall carry out duties and powers prescribed by the Administrator.

(d) RESPONSIBILITIES OF ADMINISTRATOR.—The Administrator of the Administration shall be responsible for carrying out the following:

(1) HAZMAT TRANSPORTATION SAFETY.—Duties and powers vested in the Secretary of Transportation with respect to hazardous materials transportation safety, except as otherwise delegated by the Secretary.

(2) PIPELINE SAFETY.—Duties and powers vested in the Secretary with respect to pipeline safety.

(3) ACTIVITIES OF VOLPE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS CENTER.—Duties and powers vested in the Secretary with respect to activities of the Volpe National Transportation Systems Center.

(4) OTHER.—Such other duties and powers as the Secretary shall prescribe, including such multimodal and intermodal duties as are appropriate.

(e) LIMITATION ON STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall affect any delegation of authority, regulation, order, approval, exemption, waiver, contract, or other administrative act of the Secretary with respect to laws administered through the Research and Special Programs Administration of the Department of Transportation on October 24, 1992.

(Added Pub. L. 102-508, title IV, § 401(a), Oct. 24, 1992, 106 Stat. 3310; amended Pub. L. 103-429, § 6(1), Oct. 31, 1994, 108 Stat. 4378.)

AMENDMENTS

1994—Subsec. (e). Pub. L. 103-429 substituted “October 24, 1992” for “the date of the enactment of this section”.

DEVELOPMENT OF UNDERGROUND UTILITY LOCATION TECHNOLOGIES

Section 306 of Pub. L. 102-508 provided that:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Transportation shall carry out a research and development program on underground utility location technologies.

“(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section

\$500,000 for fiscal years beginning after September 30, 1992. Such sums shall remain available until expended.”

§ 113. Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration shall be an administration of the Department of Transportation.

(b) **SAFETY AS HIGHEST PRIORITY.**—In carrying out its duties, the Administration shall consider the assignment and maintenance of safety as the highest priority, recognizing the clear intent, encouragement, and dedication of Congress to the furtherance of the highest degree of safety in motor carrier transportation.

(c) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The head of the Administration shall be the Administrator who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and shall be an individual with professional experience in motor carrier safety. The Administrator shall report directly to the Secretary of Transportation.

(d) **DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR.**—The Administration shall have a Deputy Administrator appointed by the Secretary, with the approval of the President. The Deputy Administrator shall carry out duties and powers prescribed by the Administrator.

(e) **CHIEF SAFETY OFFICER.**—The Administration shall have an Assistant Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administrator appointed in the competitive service by the Secretary, with the approval of the President. The Assistant Administrator shall be the Chief Safety Officer of the Administration. The Assistant Administrator shall carry out the duties and powers prescribed by the Administrator.

(f) **POWERS AND DUTIES.**—The Administrator shall carry out—

(1) duties and powers related to motor carriers or motor carrier safety vested in the Secretary by chapters 5, 51, 55, 57, 59, 133 through 149, 311, 313, 315, and 317 and by section 18 of the Noise Control Act of 1972 (42 U.S.C. 4917; 86 Stat. 1249–1250); except as otherwise delegated by the Secretary to any agency of the Department of Transportation other than the Federal Highway Administration, as of October 8, 1999; and

(2) additional duties and powers prescribed by the Secretary.

(g) **LIMITATION ON TRANSFER OF POWERS AND DUTIES.**—A duty or power specified in subsection (f)(1) may only be transferred to another part of the Department when specifically provided by law.

(h) **EFFECT OF CERTAIN DECISIONS.**—A decision of the Administrator involving a duty or power specified in subsection (f)(1) and involving notice and hearing required by law is administratively final.

(i) **CONSULTATION.**—The Administrator shall consult with the Federal Highway Administrator and with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administrator on matters related to highway and motor carrier safety.

(Added Pub. L. 106–159, title I, §101(a), Dec. 9, 1999, 113 Stat. 1750.)

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective Jan. 1, 2000, see section 107(a) of Pub. L. 106–159, set out as an Effective Date of 1999 Amendment note under section 104 of this title.

FINDINGS

Pub. L. 106–159, §3, Dec. 9, 1999, 113 Stat. 1749, provided that: “Congress makes the following findings:

“(1) The current rate, number, and severity of crashes involving motor carriers in the United States are unacceptable.

“(2) The number of Federal and State commercial motor vehicle and operator inspections is insufficient and civil penalties for violators must be utilized to deter future violations.

“(3) The Department of Transportation is failing to meet statutorily mandated deadlines for completing rulemaking proceedings on motor carrier safety and, in some significant safety rulemaking proceedings, including driver hours-of-service regulations, extensive periods have elapsed without progress toward resolution or implementation.

“(4) Too few motor carriers undergo compliance reviews and the Department’s data bases and information systems require substantial improvement to enhance the Department’s ability to target inspection and enforcement resources toward the most serious safety problems and to improve States’ ability to keep dangerous drivers off the roads.

“(5) Additional safety inspectors and inspection facilities are needed in international border areas to ensure that commercial motor vehicles, drivers, and carriers comply with United States safety standards.

“(6) The Department should rigorously avoid conflicts of interest in federally funded research.

“(7) Meaningful measures to improve safety must be implemented expeditiously to prevent increases in motor carrier crashes, injuries, and fatalities.

“(8) Proper use of Federal resources is essential to the Department’s ability to improve its research, rulemaking, oversight, and enforcement activities related to commercial motor vehicles, operators, and carriers.”

PURPOSES

Pub. L. 106–159, §4, Dec. 9, 1999, 113 Stat. 1749, provided that: “The purposes of this Act [see Tables for classification] are—

“(1) to improve the administration of the Federal motor carrier safety program and to establish a Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration in the Department of Transportation; and

“(2) to reduce the number and severity of large-truck involved crashes through more commercial motor vehicle and operator inspections and motor carrier compliance reviews, stronger enforcement measures against violators, expedited completion of rulemaking proceedings, scientifically sound research, and effective commercial driver’s license testing, recordkeeping and sanctions.”

SAVINGS PROVISION

Pub. L. 106–159, title I, §106, Dec. 9, 1999, 113 Stat. 1756, provided that:

“(a) **TRANSFER OF ASSETS AND PERSONNEL.**—Except as otherwise provided in this Act [see Tables for classification] and the amendments made by this Act, those personnel, property, and records employed, used, held, available, or to be made available in connection with a function transferred to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration by this Act shall be transferred to the Administration for use in connection with the functions transferred, and unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, and other funds of the Office of Motor Carrier Safety (including any predecessor entity) shall also be transferred to the Administration.

“(b) **LEGAL DOCUMENTS.**—All orders, determinations, rules, regulations, permits, grants, loans, contracts, settlements, agreements, certificates, licenses, and privileges—